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To Mr Wilberforce Eames
with [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

And by W. Eames to
the Lenox Library
Nov 21. 1895

W Wilberforce ——

The Gift of Lady Chambers (widow of the late Sir Robt Chambers Chief Judge in India)

the Author ——

Marden Park Feby 1822

# THIRTY-SIX MORNING PRAYERS,

BY

## A Lady,

AS USED IN HER OWN FAMILY:

INSCRIBED, WITH PERMISSION,

TO THE

## REV. ARCHDEACON NARES.

"The fashion of this world passeth away." 1 Cor. vii. part of ver. 31.

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." 2d Epist. John, 9.

"Moreover I will endeavour that you may be able, after my decease, to have these things always in remembrance." 2 Pet. i. 15.

London:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR;

AND

SOLD BY F. C. & J. RIVINGTON,

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD; AND WATERLOO-PLACE, PALL-MALL.

1821.

To Mr Wilberforce Eames
with sincere regards

[illegible]

[illegible]

Presd by W. Eames to
the Lenox Library
Nov 21. 1895

## I.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O Almighty God who art merciful to all, and ever ready to hear our prayers, we bow down before thy footstool, beseeching Thee to bless us, and to pardon our iniquities. Write Thy laws upon our hearts, O Heavenly Father, and make stedfast all our purposes and endeavours to keep Thy holy commandments. Teach us, Thy humble servants, so to wait upon Thee, our God, during our appointed time on earth, that when the evil days come on, and the years draw nigh, in which the pleasures of this world shall vanish, we may be ready for the change; and so finish our course, that our example may do good to all with whom we have lived in society and friendly intercourse; and that we may all partake finally of the felicities of thy chosen in heaven. O Lord, guide the hearts of Thy people by Thy Holy Spirit; convert unbelievers throughout all the world, by the power of Thy Holy Word; support all who call upon Thy name wherever dispersed, and however distressed. In righteousness establish the throne, and uphold the sceptre in justice; instruct our counsellors, and teach our senators wisdom; clothe Thy Priests with holiness, and Thy people with humility. Defend the cause of the orphan, the fatherless, and the widow, the poor

and

and the needy; reward our benefactors, bless our relations and friends, and incline our hearts to do good to all, with such Christian love, as our blessed Saviour commands. Bless us, O Heavenly Father, who now prostrate ourselves before Thee, to implore Thy mercy, and to praise and magnify Thy Holy Name, for all Thy bounties, from day to day bestowed upon us. We praise Thee for Thy care and protection of us this last night, and for the comforts Thou hast this morning renewed to us. O Lord, increase our thankfulness as Thou increasest Thy bounty, and let us ever look up to the true source, whence all our blessings flow. Let Thy hand uphold us this day, and Thy good Spirit guide our thoughts, words, and works. Give us grace rightly to understand our duties, as set forth in Thy Holy Word; and to persevere constantly in the practice of Christ's holy precepts, that no temptation of this world may be able to draw our hearts from Thee, or our actions from the laws of our God and Saviour. Enable us to regulate all the worldly concerns of this day, with that Christian spirit, which we devoutly pray Thee to instil into our hearts, so that in the end we may safely arrive at Thy kingdom in Heaven, through the merits and mediation of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## II.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O ALMIGHTY and ETERNAL GOD, with deep humility we adore Thee, and acknowledge that all we have, and all we are, is the effect of Thy unspeakable bounty. O give us such a sense of Thy infinite goodness, that we may humbly and heartily thank Thee, O Heavenly Father, for all Thy graces and favours bestowed upon us; for creating us, and for preserving us by the daily protection of Thy Providence; for redeeming us by the death of Thy blessed Son; for the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, to sanctify our corrupt nature; for causing us to be born in a Christian country; for blessing us with the plentiful means of salvation; and for the glorious inheritance prepared for those who love Thee, and keep Thy commandments. We also thank Thee, O God, for the many temporal blessings which Thou hast conferred upon us, in our different situations in life: for our comfortable rest the last night, and for Thy preservation of us from all accidents and dangers. We thank thee, O Lord, for all the comforts and conveniencies of life, as well as for the common participation of Thy bounty to all Thy creatures. O may we delight to praise Thy Holy Name, for Thy great indulgence to us, and grant that we may above all else,

love

love Thee our great Benefactor. O Father of mercies, have compassion upon us, miserable sinners, despise not the work of Thine own hands, the purchase of Thy Son's blood, for whose sake we implore the pardon of our sins. We are sorry that we have so often offended against Thy holy laws, and we resolve, by the assistance of Thy grace, to amend our lives, to correct our faults, and study to avoid occasion to commit evil, and earnestly try to conform to Thy ways. Enlighten our minds with a true and thorough knowledge of our duty, and enable us to perform it. Defend us by Thy power from all those snares and temptations, which continually solicit us to offend thee. Keep us from all those bodily dangers to which we are daily exposed. Keep us in innocence of mind, and in charity to our fellow-creatures. Enable us to manage our temporal concerns with integrity; direct our paths, and teach us to guide all our steps with discretion; but let not the pursuit of the things of this life, rob us of that time which ought to be employed in the concerns of our souls, or divert our attention from serious thoughts of the world to come; so that walking faithfully before Thee all our days, we may be found watching, and at our appointed hour be translated, from a life of humble piety, to a life of eternal righteousness and glory, through our most blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## III.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O Almighty Father, to whose goodness we owe the safety and protection of the past night, vouchsafe to accept our praises and thanksgivings, and to renew Thy care of us through this day. Thou sparest, when we deserve punishment, and in the midst of Thy wrath, Thou thinkest upon mercy. Thy goodness, as the sun, shineth upon the evil as well as the good. Thou dost dispense Thy mercies, and Thy judgments, as is most expedient for our eternal welfare. Thy Divine Providence wisely orders all things for the good of mankind, placing every one of us in such situations as Thou knowest to be the best and fittest for us. O teach us to resign ourselves entirely to Thy holy will, without murmuring, without repining, and without peevishness. Enable us to submit ourselves to Thy disposal with content, and may we acquiesce patiently in whatever trials Thou mayest have appointed for us. O merciful Father, Thou knowest the infirmities of human nature, and dost promise to pity and forgive them. How uneasy, alas! are we frequently in the midst of plenty, and how ready to murmur when in possession of the greatest temporal blessings, and when Thy Providence is most indulgent to us. O blessed Father, how often and how long have we sinned against Thee.

O how

O how often have we stopped our ears when Thou hast called us to repentance. How ungratefully have we enjoyed all the good things which Thou hast showered upon us. O Lord, soften our impenitent hearts, and lead us to a right sense of Thy goodness and long-suffering towards us. O Lord God, through the merits of Christ Jesus, who came upon earth to seek and to save that which was lost, pardon our sins; and give us true repentance, that we may obtain mercy. Let Thy Gospel be our guide, Thy promises our support, and Thy power our defence, against the temptations of our own hearts, and the wiles of our spiritual adversary. May every day which Thou addest to our lives, make us more and more fit for the great day of account, when we must all appear at the judgment-seat of Christ. Inspire our hearts, O Lord, with such an awful sense of our own sins and wickednesses, that we may cease to do evil, and learn to do good, while life is spared to us: and God of his infinite mercy grant, that we may spend our lives in such manner upon earth, that we may hereafter be numbered among Christ's faithful servants in his heavenly kingdom, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## IV.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord, the Blessed God of our salvation, upon whom the eyes of all do wait, for Thou givest unto all life, and breath, and all things, and upon Thee we depend continually for all the good we have, or hope for; Thou ever takest care of us, even in our rest and sleep, when we have not a thought of caring for ourselves. O Lord God, how great is Thy goodness to the children of men; let all flesh praise the Lord. Merciful Father, daily thou renewest to us our lives, and thy mercies; and Thou hast given us the assurance of Thy holy word, that if we commit ourselves to Thee, and acknowledge Thee in all our ways, thou wilt establish our thoughts and direct our paths. We therefore earnestly desire, O Lord, still to put ourselves under Thy gracious conduct and fatherly protection, and we pray for Thy heavenly guidance and blessing, and that Thou wilt dispose of us, and of all that concerns us, to the glory of Thy holy name. O Lord, withdraw not from us Thy tender mercies, nor the comforts of Thy presence, nor the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit. Do not punish our past sins, by giving us up to the power of them; but grant us truly penitent hearts for all the evil committed by us, and grant us Thy merciful pardon for the

guilt

guilt that lies upon us. Give us, O Heavenly Father, the comfortable sense and apprehension of Thy mercies through Christ, in whom we may be made acceptable to Thee, and feel a hope of Thy gracious intentions towards us, for the sake of our blessed Redeemer. O may our souls praise Thee, and give thanks unto Thee for evermore. Enable us to resist all our sins, guarding more particularly against those to which we are most addicted; and whereof we are most in danger. Make us more ready to perform every good work, and better disposed for all the duties of piety, justice, charity and sobriety, which we owe to Thee our God, to our neighbour, and to ourselves. O help us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise; carefully redeeming the time we have lost, and conscientiously using all the means of grace which Thou hast put in our power. O Lord, keep us this day in Thy fear and favour, give us such things as are needful for our present state of existence, and for our future happiness; amidst all our affairs in this world, let us never forget the one thing needful; but may our greatest care be so to demean ourselves every day, as to forward our good account, in the great day of Thy appearing in glory, and grant us a timely repentance of our evil deeds, and that we may follow the courses, and take the ways most acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord our Strength and Redeemer. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## V.

## MORNING PRAYER.

MOST GRACIOUS LORD GOD, the source of all our comforts here, and the sure foundation of all our hopes hereafter, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, look down from heaven upon us unworthy servants, who beg leave to renew our thanks to Thy Divine Majesty, for the safety and protection Thou hast afforded us this last night: we have slept securely, and blessed be Thy name, we are still in health and safety. Let us ever magnify Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings we enjoy. O most merciful Father, forgive us all the unworthy returns we make Thee, for the manifold favours we are constantly receiving, and grant us for the time to come, such a sense of Thy mercy, that we may love Thee with all our hearts, with all our minds, and with all our strength; that we may study to please Thee in all things, and be afraid of nothing so much as Thy wrath and indignation. And, O Lord, that we may serve Thee as we ought, preserve us from the power of ensnaring objects, and make us truly sensible of the vanity of this world, neither permit us to be brought under the dominion of those lusts which war against the soul, under the false appearance, too frequently, of harmless pleasures, which we do not fear, because they are so generally pursued. O Lord,

let

let us not forget, " which is the greater, the gold, or the temple which sanctifieth the gold :" for Thou, Lord, art the Giver of every good gift. O grant us a right understanding of Thy holy will, so that neither the pleasures of this life, nor the business and cares of it, may ever make us neglect the salvation of our souls, and the great work Thou hast set us to do. Root out all covetous affections from our hearts, deliver us from pride and vanity, from a partial conceit of ourselves, from a mean opinion of others, from a censorious and uncharitable spirit, from an envious and malicious temper, and from all those sinful and corrupt affections which are hateful in Thy sight. O let it be our greatest care to provide for eternity; endue us with that wisdom which is from above, with that meekness and humility which are in Thy sight of so great value: and bestow on us all those holy and Christian dispositions which Thou lovest. Grant us a due sense of our frailty, that we may be mindful how we live, and that we may consider the shortness and uncertainty of this life, and the eternity of that which is to come. Let neither sickness nor death surprise us in a state unprovided for them, that so we may be prepared to resign ourselves into Thy hands, whenever it shall please Thee to call us hence. Guide us through life, and in all our concerns, by Thy good Spirit, for the sake of our Blessed Advocate and Redeemer Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VI.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O Eternal God, and Merciful Father, we give Thee humble and hearty thanks, for all the benefits and blessings, which in Thy great mercy Thou hast liberally poured down upon us. We give Thee most unfeigned thanks, for Thy preservation of us, from the time of our birth to this present moment, and for bringing us in health and safety to the beginning of another day, in which and in all the days of our life, we beseech Thee, to preserve us from sin and danger, both in soul and body. Grant that all our thoughts, words, and works, may tend to the honour and glory of Thy holy name, the discharge of our duty, and the salvation of our souls. O let us live to praise Thy glorious name. Pardon, O Father of mercies, all our sins, whether of omission or commission, in thought, word, or deed, let them not cry oftener or louder in Thine ears for vengeance, than our prayers call upon Thee, for mercy and forgiveness. O Lord, against Heaven, and against Thee have we sinned, but we beseech Thee to pardon us, and to give us forthwith, wise, sober, patient, religious, and courageous hearts; fill our souls with devotion to Thee, and give them strength to resist temptations. O blessed Lord, enable us to fulfill Thy commands, do with us as seemeth best in Thy sight, make our

services

services acceptable to Thee while we live, and our souls ready for Thee when we die. Bless Thy holy church, O Lord, and those who are called to preach Thy divine word. Bless the king, let Thy name, O God of Jacob, defend him, set his heart firm on Thee, that we and all his subjects may see Thou helpest Thine anointed, and wilt hear him from Thy holy heaven. Have mercy upon these kingdoms, and forgive the sins of Thy people, turn the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just. Comfort all the sons and daughters of affliction by Thy heavenly power, that they may endure every cross for the glory of their Saviour, whose yoke is easy, and whose burthen is light. Support those who suffer in this world for truth and righteousness' sake, and keep us all, O Lord, stedfast in our faith, and firm in our resolves to lead a Christian life. Defend us from all evil, pardon our sins, relieve our necessities, and may we consider that Christ is pleased to reckon all the good we do to his poor servants, as done to himself.

" O Lord, who hast taught us, that all our doings without charity
" are nothing worth; send Thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our
" hearts, that most excellent gift of charity, the bond of peace,
" and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted
" dead before Thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's
" sake." *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and EVERLASTING GOD, we praise Thee, and give Thee most humble and hearty thanks, that of Thy infinite goodness, Thou hast with the sure defence of Thy Providence, protected us from fire, thieves, and every kind of harm, and hast raised us from sleep, which is the image of death, and renewed the day to us; thus allowing us a longer space to repent of our sins, and to prepare for heaven. Withdraw not from us we beseech Thee, the hand of thy protection during this day, but take us under Thy paternal care, and watch over us with the eyes of Thy mercy. Direct us, O Lord, in the way of Thy commandments. Endue us with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may spend the rest of our lives to the praise and glory of Thy holy name, to the benefit of our neighbour, and of ourselves and families, and to the everlasting salvation of our souls. Keep us, good Lord, from all sin: bridle our tongues, that we take not Thy holy name in vain, nor speak lying or deceitful words, or commit any transgressions which may provoke thy wrath against us. And because we are not worthy that Thou shouldest hear us, wretched sinners, we plead before Thee, the merits of our Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ; for His righteousness' sake, pardon the offences of Thy servants, and in Thy great

mercy

mercy grant us those good things to which we have no claim, but which we daily receive from Thy Fatherly bounty. Keep us, we pray Thee, in health and strength, give us food and raiment, and a competence sufficient to maintain us in that state of life, to which it has pleased Thee to call us. Direct our souls and bodies, our words and actions, so that we may not rest our hearts and hopes, upon any thing in this transitory world, and grant that by leading a quiet and a Christian life, we may pass through this state of probation with joy and comfort, till it shall please Thee to remove us hence. Bless all whom Thou hast set over us in church and state, shew the light of Thy truth to those who wander out of the right way; support the poor, and the helpless; and comfort the afflicted with a right understanding of Thy wise Providence. Give repentance to sinners, and strengthen with Thy grace those who have begun well, that they may persevere in goodness. To all our kindred and friends, and to our enemies, give Thy good blessing. Pardon the coldness and wanderings of our petitions, and deal with us, not after our deserts, but according to our necessities, and Thy great mercies, through our Divine Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VIII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O God, who art the Giver of all good gifts, and the Author of all goodness, we thine unworthy servants, entirely desire to praise Thy holy name, for all the expressions of Thy loving-kindness towards us. Blessed for ever be Thy name, for giving Thy Son to die for our sins; for the covenant of mercy confirmed by His precious blood, for the means of grace instituted by Him here, and the hopes of mercy and glory hereafter through His merits. We bless Thee, that after all our wilful refusals of Thy grace, Thou still hast patience with us, and hast added this day more to those we have too often mis-spent already, that we may renew and perfect our repentance, and finish the work Thou hast set us to do. Pardon, O Lord, all our former sins, and all our abuses of Thy forbearance, for which we are sorry at heart: make us more careful in improving future opportunities, and give us grace to lead more holy lives. Make Thyself always present to our minds, in all those places and companies where we may associate this day. Make us pure in all our thoughts, temperate in all our enjoyments, humble in our opinion of ourselves, charitable in our speeches of others, meek and peaceable under all provocations, sincere and faithful in all our professions, and so just and right in all our dealings, that

that no necessity may force, no opportunity allure us to defraud our neighbour. When Thou bestowest good on others, let us not envy, but rejoice in it; and when Thou addest any comfort to ourselves, let us acknowledge Thy mercy and humbly thank Thee for it. Afford us convenient supplies in all our reasonable necessities, and protect us against the approach of all danger. Make us diligent in our worldly concerns, and give us such success as Thou seest most expedient for us. Teach us contentedly to submit, and not to repine at any thing that happens to us by the allotment of Thy wise Providence. In all our passage through this world, and all our manifold concerns therein, suffer not our hearts to be too much set upon it, but do thou always fix our eyes upon the blessed hope of everlasting life in heaven, that we may make all the things of this world minister to it; and be careful above all things, to fit our souls for that pure and perfect bliss, which Thou hast prepared for them who love Thee, in Thy heavenly kingdom; where that we may all appear, through the mediation of our Blessed Saviour, God of His mercy grant. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## IX.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O FATHER of Mercies, to whom those who are guilty must look for pardon, those who are in want must seek for supplies, and those who suffer must come for support; we direct our eyes unto Thee this morning, praying Thee to be about our paths, as Thou hast been about our beds. O Lord, give us that wisdom which is profitable to us, to direct our minds; let not a deceived heart turn us aside, but may we walk by the light of Thy holy word, till Thou shalt call us to enjoy the clearer light of heaven. Whatever trials or snares may befal us, may we meet them as those whom Thy word has quickened to a life of faith and holiness. Strengthen us, O Lord, that we may keep ourselves unspotted from the world; that we may not walk after the flesh but after the Spirit, and that Satan may not gain any advantage over us. Enable us so to manage our temporal affairs as not to be enslaved by them. Grant, O Lord, that all they who are called upon to perform any public duties, may be conscientious in the discharge of them, and moderate in their desires of wealth, not undertaking so much business as to occupy their minds entirely, and unfit them for the duties and employments of religion. Should any difficulties arise this day, or any distress befal us, let us not depend on human wisdom alone; but since Thou permittest

us to call upon Thy divine power in time of our trouble, let us pray to Thee for help in every affliction. O Lord, let Thy presence go with us: there is no wisdom, like Thy wisdom, no power, like Thy power, and therefore there is no dependance equal to that of making Thee our trust. Thy Providence is our best security against the craftiness and violence of this wicked world. O Lord, be Thou our Protector this day; conducted by Thee, we shall go on safely if not pleasantly. We may not be exempt from trial, but if Thou sanctifiest the trial all will be well; and in the evening, should we have to look back upon a stormy day, we shall have to be thankful, that He was with us whom the winds and the sea obey; and should we have been kept from sin, it will be to us a blessed day. O may we walk humbly with our God, for pride leadeth to a fall; and though confusion of face belongs to us miserable sinners, we are, by our sinful nature, too much inclined to pride. Remind us, O Lord, of what we are in ourselves, that if there be any good thing in our hearts, we may give the glory where it is due, and say, this hath God wrought. We earnestly pray Thee, O Lord, to give us more and more of Thy grace, that we may live more devoted to Thy will, and that we may employ our time and our talents to the praise of Him, who has called us out of darkness into the marvellous light of the Gospel. O may our hearts and voices devoutly join the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## X.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O God, by whom the whole world is governed and preserved, we give Thee most hearty thanks for Thy fatherly care of us this last night, and for having brought us safely to the beginning of this day; let us therefore give thanks to Thee for this and all Thy mercies. We devoutly pray, that we may live in Thy fear, and in charity to our neighbour, beseeching Thee to make us truly sensible of Thy mercies, and thankful for them. O grant that Thy Holy Spirit may direct and rule our hearts, teaching us what we ought to do, and what we ought to avoid; and give us Thy grace and guidance to support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations. Grant, O Lord, that we may walk as in Thy sight, making a conscience of our ways; and fearing to offend Thee, may we never fall into the sins of which we have at any time repented. Enable us to resist the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, to follow the motions of Thy good Spirit, to be serious and holy in our lives, true and just in all our dealings, watchful over all our thoughts, words, and actions, diligent in all our business, and temperate in all things. Do Thou, O Lord, bless all our honest endeavours, and make us content with what Thy good Providence shall order for us, that so we may continue Christ's faithful servants this day and to our lives

lives end. May Thy blessing be upon our labours, upon our substance, and upon all that belongs to us; give us grace that we may honestly improve the talents Thou hast committed to our care, and that no worldly pleasures may divert our attention from the thoughts of Thy heavenly kingdom. Make us sensible of all Thy favours, and mindful of the wants of others. May our gracious God give us all that is needful to us in our several situations, and grace not to abuse His favours, and with all give us contented minds. May we commit no wilful sin, or run into any kind of danger; and may all our doings be ordered by Thy Providence, that we may do always that which is righteous in Thy sight. Grant us in this world knowledge of Thy ways, and in the world to come life everlasting. Hear our humble prayers, O Almighty and merciful God, and enable us to act up to the religious knowledge we have attained, so shall our lives be happy and holy; and Thy good Spirit will direct and succour us, both here and hereafter, through the mediation of our eternal Saviour, in whose holy name and words we sum up all our wants, and those of all mankind, saying,

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XI.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O ETERNAL and UNCHANGEABLE LORD GOD, who art the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; be pleased to give some stedfastness to us Thy imperfect creatures, who are by nature unsteady, trifling, and vain. Behold with pity and compassion the dangers to which the frailty of our nature is perpetually exposed, from the assaults of the world, the flesh, and the devil. We adore and bless thee, O God, for all the daily and hourly blessings we receive, in this our state of trial upon earth. O how full is that state of hazard and inquietude. Keep us, gracious Lord, from the temptations that would betray us into sin. Let no terrors or flatteries, either of the world or our own hearts, draw us from our obedience to Thee, but grant that we may be stedfast and immoveable, always abounding in the grace of Thy Divine Spirit, so as to obey Thy heavenly will. Grant that we may feel our dependance upon Thy blessing, for the success of our endeavours, in the discharge of our lawful duties. Let us consider, that wherever we are, and whatever we do, the eye of God is upon us. From Thy high and holy habitation, Thou seest all our ways, and knowest the thoughts of our hearts. Thou art every where present, and the very hairs of our head are all numbered. O may the conviction of

Thy

Thy awful presence dwell upon our minds at all times, and in all places; that we may devoutly fear Thee, truly love Thee, and entirely trust in Thee, our Heavenly Father, Creator, Preserver, and Blessed Redeemer. In our passage through this world, may we follow the holy instructions of the Scriptures; may our duty to God, and our duty to our neighbour, be our most earnest pursuit. O Almighty Giver of all good things, may we be temperate and discreet in the use of the many blessings Thou hast conferred upon us, remembering that we must give an account of the use we make of what is intrusted to our care, either by Thy immediate bounty, or by the hands of those whom Thou hast appointed to rule over us. O give us the riches of Thy grace, which is better than thousands of gold and silver. Be thou our help in trouble, for vain is the help of man. Vouchsafe us, O Lord, the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be continually disposed to obey Thy will, and with pure hearts and minds to follow Thee, the only God; that we may live soberly and virtuously in this world, and that our souls may be prepared for the company of saints and angels in Thy heavenly kingdom. Give to us, and to all Thy people, that unity of spirit in all Christian charity, that we may be one fold under one Shepherd, even our Lord and blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ, in whose words we are instructed to pray in behalf of ourselves, and all mankind, saying,

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

" LORD, we beseech Thee to keep Thy household the church " in continual godliness, that through Thy protection it may be " free from adversities, and devoutly given to serve Thee in good " works, to the glory of Thy name." O our Heavenly Father, look down in mercy and pity upon Thy servants, who, without the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, cannot do any good work. O Lord, at our baptism we entered into the household of Thy church, grant that we may ever bear in mind that Thy grace is sufficient for us, if we do not willingly follow the temptations and allurements of sin, and stifle the motions of Thy good Spirit. O let us carefully cherish every good thought that tends to the glory of Thy name; and in the performance of the various duties and employments of this day, let us never lose sight of the sacred rules of the blessed Gospel. Every state and situation of life, thanks to Thy Fatherly goodness, is guided and governed by Thy Providence; every sinner, instructed by Thy precepts, may obtain pardon; and the meanest and poorest Christian is capable of offering Thee acceptable service; for Thou, O God, lookest to the heart, and hast commanded us all to serve Thee in spirit and in truth. Let us not be deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap; therefore, while we have time, let us do good unto

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all men, and especially unto them that are of the household of faith; who are brethren in the Lord. May they be devoutly resolved to love and serve God, with all their heart, and with all their mind, to worship Him truly, and to honour His holy name and His word. O gracious God, enable us to seek fellowship with such as fear Thee, and to pursue our road through this world, in the sure path which leads to peace and joy eternally in heaven, where we shall be free from all adversity for ever. O Almighty Lord, for the sake of Thy dear Son, hear our prayers, that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that we may approve the things that are excellent; that we may be sincere, and without offence, till the day of Christ. Grant that we may consider the intention of all our actions, and carefully search our own hearts, lest we give way to the ever-present evil of our own minds, and follow corrupt imaginations, false principles, or wicked insinuations. Whatever may occur to us this day, O may we never forsake the God of our salvation, who, moved with wonderful compassion, came down from heaven, to redeem us from the wrath to come; to teach repentance to sinners, and by his miraculous works of mercy, and demonstration of Almighty power, to call them to obedience: who has also left his Gospel, to direct the children of men, to dispel the clouds of darkness, and to shield them from the attacks of Satan. Evermore, Almighty God, defend us, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XIII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and ETERNAL GOD, whose hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and who givest spirit and breath unto all creatures; O Lord, full of compassion, slow to anger, good to all, Thy loving-kindness is over all Thy works, and most particularly shown towards the children of men; hear us, O God of our salvation, though we are unworthy of the least of the mercies we enjoy. With fear we come into Thy presence, knowing the wickedness of our own hearts, and that we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and omitted the good things it is our duty continually to perform; but Thou hast sent Thy Son Jesus Christ into the world to save sinners, and for His sake hast promised to give us all things that be needful for our salvation. Our blessed Lord taught and commanded us to pray, therefore we presume to offer up our prayers and praises at this time, for all the mercies we hope for, and for all the benefits we have received from Thee. We humbly call upon Thee to bestow upon us whatever may be needful for our souls and bodies. Give us this day our daily bread; let Thy bounty, which filleth all things living with plenteousness, supply our wants and necessities; and teach us to live as those who must give an account of every talent they receive. May we so perform Thy

heavenly

heavenly will, that when this world passeth away, we may abide for ever, and in the number of Thy faithful servants enter into the joys of Thy heavenly kingdom. O Lord, let Thy good Providence rule over us this day, and let no temptation befal us but what Thou wilt enable us to bear. Let Thy laws, which are holy, just, and good, be our counsellors and our guide; do Thou make all our ways righteous in Thy sight, and prosper the works of our hands. Let every one who nameth the name of Christ depart from his iniquities. Purify the thoughts of our hearts, that we may worthily magnify Thy holy name, and be a people zealous of good works, to Thy honour and glory. Let our ways be Thy ways, let our will be according to Thy will, that whatever we do, we may do as Thy servants, studying to perform our Christian duty. Grant us, O Heavenly Father, true repentance for all our sins, and pardon them for Christ's sake; bless us and all Thou hast given us. Let Thy good Spirit guide the hearts and lives of all our relations and friends, for whose well doing we unite our prayers; because "such as are planted in the house of the Lord, "shall flourish in the courts of the house of our God." O be merciful to us, and save us, in the day of Thy appearing to judge the world, by our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered for the sins of all mankind. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us, O Christ hear us, Lord have mercy upon us.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XIV.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who dwellest in light to which no mortal eye can approach, and in whose sight every creature is manifest at all times, and in all places; O Lord, give ear to our prayers, and hide not Thyself from our supplications. Hear us, O God, who worship and kneel before Thee, our Maker, to offer up our humble thanksgivings for Thy care and protection this last night. Thou keepest mercy for thousands, and forgivest iniquity, transgression, and sin; Thou art gracious and slow to anger, of great kindness, and never forsakest those that seek Thee. Thou deliverest the needy when he crieth, the poor also, and him that hath no helper. Thou hast been our God ever since we were born; O let us never forsake Thee, or Thy holy word, to follow the vain fancies of our deceitful hearts. O Lord, open our lips, that our mouth may shew forth Thy praise, for all Thy mercies continued to us this day. Defend us by Thy Almighty power, secure us from danger, or succour us in the time of temptation or distress. Let Thy Holy Spirit help our infirmities, make our thoughts innocent, our words blameless and edifying, our actions free from sin, and such as may afford us comfort at the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. Be with us, O our heavenly Protector, in all our undertakings, that no unworthy pursuit may employ our time, which is of uncertain

uncertain duration; for all our days are numbered, though we know not the date or the manner of our death. We are evil doers by nature, and the children of wrath, our imaginations vain, our hearts desperately wicked, and our wills in bondage to corruption. O God of all mercy and truth, help us to devote ourselves entirely to Thee, that we may pursue our worldly employments with such views, and in such ways, as may advance our state of preparation for futurity. O Lord, plant Thy love and fear in all our hearts, shew mercy to this nation, and pardon the sins of Thy people. Suffer not Thy displeasure to arise against the sheep of Thy pasture, make our divisions cease, and teach us to follow peace with all men. Bless Thy anointed servant, and bring to naught the malice of the wicked. Bless all the ministers of justice, give them a zeal for Thy glory, and make them a terror to evil doers, and encouragers of them who do well. Bless the ministers of Thy church, give them boldness to rebuke vice, and inspire them with piety and wisdom, answerable to the necessities of the present age, and their high calling. Give Thy blessing to all who hear Thy holy word, that they may have courage to follow its sacred commands in this perverse generation, and, O Lord, keep us in Thy faith and fear, through the mediation of our Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XV.

## MORNING PRAYER.

WE adore Thee, O Lord of life and glory, who art from everlasting to everlasting, and changest not. We praise Thee, and humbly beseech Thee to look graciously upon us, whose hope is only in Thy infinite mercy. Our life is thus far prolonged, and we have been preserved from evil accidents this night. Let us then, with every thing that hath breath, praise the Lord. The highest angels can desire no greater bliss than to stand continually in Thy presence, admiring Thy wondrous works, evermore praising, loving, and obeying Thee. Such happiness is above our ideas, while we dwell in these frail bodies; but even to this Thy blessed Son encourages us to aspire in a better world. O Lord of hope and mercy, let Thy Spirit dwell in our hearts, and cheer us with the light of Thy countenance; for wheresoever Thou art, there is peace and satisfaction, joy and gladness, and bliss unspeakable. Thou hast engaged us by innumerable mercies, to serve Thee, and to appeal continually to Thee in prayer. Thou knowest our wants, and the secret desires of our souls; O may we confide in Thee for a needful supply of mercy, whether it be shewn us by granting, or by denying what we want or ask. We acknowledge that we depend entirely upon Thee, and Thy power and wisdom is conspicuous every where. Thou, O Lord,

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art bountiful to all, and we ourselves have received distinguished marks of Thy grace and favour, in times of affliction and distress, which are still felt in our hearts, and treasured in our minds. We remember likewise what an abundance of good things Thou hast from time to time bestowed upon us, and confess our shameful ingratitude to Thee, who art the Giver of all our happiness. We will endeavour, O Lord, henceforth to preserve in our minds a grateful sense of Thy wonderful love towards us, and to follow the doctrine and example of Thy Son Jesus Christ, as becomes those who have the blessed hope of so great salvation, at the day of his coming in glory. May these views be fixed in our minds, amidst all the pursuits and duties of this life, and may the blessed Gospel be the rule of our conduct to all our fellow creatures. We desire the good of all mankind as well as our own, and that all may walk worthy of the Gospel, and live together in godly unity and brotherly love, doing their duty to Thee, O Lord, and to each other so faithfully, that we may be enabled to rejoice together at the great day of our Lord Christ, in whose words we pray Thee to hear us.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XVI.

## MORNING PRAYER.

HEAR our prayers, O Lord, and let them ascend to Thy heavenly throne, O Thou merciful Preserver of mankind. Have pity upon us, as a father pitieth his children. Teach our souls to praise Thee, and teach us and all Thy people to speak good of Thy holy name. O what can we render to Thee our God for all the benefits Thou hast done unto us? for giving Thy Son to die for us, and to shed His blood for the remission of our sins; for making Thy ways known to us, and Thy saving health to this nation? We bless Thee for all the methods of Thy goodness to lead us to repentance, and for Thy mercy in sometimes correcting us for the amendment of our lives; thus recalling our minds from the deceitful pleasures of undisturbed health and worldly prosperity. O let Thy holy Gospel be powerful to the salvation of our souls, let Thy testimonies be our delight, and let us not swerve from Thy commandments. Let Thy good Spirit attend us, that we may do Thy holy will on earth, O Lord our Strength and our Redeemer. Thy good Providence has guarded us while we slept this night; O protect us in safety this day, give us food and raiment, health and content, and that peace of mind which no human power can bestow, but is the sole gift of Thy Divine grace. We praise Thee for Thy goodness to all mankind, and

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more especially we praise Thee, and magnify Thy holy name, O Almighty and everlasting God, that Thou hast been so good to each of us in particular. We have often sinned against Thee; our faults are more than we can remember or express, and are as the sands of the sea in multitude. But, O Lord, let not these sins or infirmities provoke Thee to wrath and indignation against us. Let not our omissions of duty make our prayers an abomination in Thy sight. Let not our frequent abuse of Thy patience, or our waste of that time which is allotted us to prepare ourselves for heaven, make Thee turn thine ear from our prayers. Thy mercy gives us time, and daily calls upon us to repent and be forgiven. O teach us to live this day, as if it were our last: direct us in all our ways, and grant, most merciful Father, that Thy good Spirit may guide our choice in every work we undertake, that we may do nothing contrary to our baptismal vows; but in every thing humbly and earnestly endeavour to follow our blessed Master Jesus Christ, who is alone the way, and the truth, and the life; and through whom only we can do any good for ourselves or others. O Lord, pardon and pity us, bless us, and all who are near and dear to us, for thy dear Son's sake, our ever-living Mediator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XVII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord God Almighty, whose mercy is over all Thy works, we Thy feeble creatures, in a thankful sense of Thy providence over us, render Thee our humblest praises for Thy watchful protection of us this last night. Blessed be Thy fatherly goodness for the continual preservation of Thy hand, by which we have been so frequently defended from the changes and chances of this mortal life, and delivered from innumerable dangers and accidents to which humanity is exposed. For these and all Thy mercies, we bless and magnify Thy glorious name; and since another opportunity is given us to offer up our prayers, and devote ourselves this day to Thy service, we earnestly pray Thee, by the inspiration of Thy good Spirit, to enable us to dedicate our souls and bodies to promote Thy glory and our own salvation, by a sober, righteous, and godly life. We heartily renounce the devil and all his works, the vanities and follies of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh; desiring nothing so much as to serve Thee faithfully all the days of our lives. We sincerely resolve, so to improve the time which Thou shalt be pleased to grant us in this world, that we may every day become better Christians, and perform our several duties more and more perfectly. Whether we be masters or servants, parents or children, husbands or wives, high or low, rich

rich or poor, may we all make a conscience of our ways, and walk humbly with our God, and in peace and charity with all the world. O Lord God, in these resolutions confirm and strengthen us, and keep us stedfastly in the purpose of our hearts to perform them, that as we grow in age, we may grow in grace. But Thou, Lord, knowest the weakness of our corrupted nature, and the many temptations we daily meet with, we therefore humbly request Thee to give us the constant assistance of Thy grace and Holy Spirit, that we may refrain from sin, and be excited to our duty: and lest we should give way to any temptation, O suffer us not to be tempted above what we are able to bear, but stretch out Thy helping hand to save us. Imprint on our minds a dread of Thy judgments, and such a grateful remembrance of Thy goodness, that we may be afraid and ashamed to offend Thee. Above all, remind us that we must eternally be rewarded or punished by Him whom Thou hast appointed Judge of quick and dead, even our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in whose words we further address Thy Fatherly goodness, saying,

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XVIII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Thy Son's name; in mercy incline Thine ear to us, who, in confidence of His merits alone, prostrate ourselves before Thee to confess our sins, and to implore Thy pardon. We thankfully acknowledge Thy goodness towards us, in raising us up this morning after refreshing sleep, and bringing us once more with renewed spirits into Thy presence. O Lord, open our lips, that we may praise Thee, and thank Thee, O Father of mercies, Lord of heaven and earth, for Thy great goodness to us and to all men. We bless Thee, that to us Thy Gospel is preached, and that Thou hast sent among us Thy light and Thy truth to guide our paths. How many sit in darkness and have no knowledge of Thy ways: how great a part of the world is as yet unenlightened by the heavenly Gospel. Blessed be Thy name for prolonging our days for repentance, and for Thy continual goodness towards us. O let Thy mercies turn to account, and let not the least of Thy numerous benefits be lost upon us; but do Thou sanctify us throughout, that our souls may praise Thee, and that we may tell of Thy salvation from day to day. But, O Lord, we cannot stand in Thy sight, if Thou shouldest mark what we have done amiss. O Lord, deal not with us according to

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our sins, but spare us, good Lord, spare Thy people whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood. And because our best thoughts and works are from Thee, and without Thee we can do nothing that is good, we pray Thee to pour into our hearts the Spirit of Thy grace, that we may delight in that which is good, and keep Thy holy statutes to the end of our days. Let all our employments be useful, or at least innocent. Let our discourse be such as will edify or comfort our hearts, remembering that for every wicked or idle word we must give an account at the day of judgment. Let all our actions be lawful and right, and well meant; and fully purposing that they may be so, we pray that Thou wilt prosper our undertakings according to Thy divine wisdom. Pardon the imperfections of our best endeavours to serve Thee. O Lord, absolve Thy people from their offences; that through Thy bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bands of those sins, which by our frailty we have committed. Spare and pardon us, good Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XIX.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, who keepest mercy for thousands, and pardonest iniquity, transgression, and sin; who retainest not Thine anger for ever, because Thou delightest in mercy: How excellent is Thy name in all the world! Thy loving-kindness is from everlasting to everlasting, therefore do the sons of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. O Lord our God, look down upon us in mercy, but look not on the sins of our hearts or our lives, which are more than we can remember, and greater than we can express; such as even make us vile in our own eyes. But, O Lord, behold us in pity, and through the merits of Thy Son our Saviour and Mediator, in whom was no sin, and by whom we are encouraged to come into Thy presence, to ask pardon for our offences, and grace to assist our endeavours towards an amendment of our lives; that we may be more fit to be partakers of the inheritance of Thy saints in light. Teach us, O Lord, so to live in this world as Thy servants, ever ready to give in their account; and so enjoying the good things Thou hast given us, as not to lose Thy love, which is better than life itself. O may we sanctify Thy gifts by a right employment and improvement of them, to Thy glory. Whatever Thou deniest,

or takest from us, may we by our resignation adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all humility. Help us, gracious Lord, in the whole of our duty to Thee our God, and in all the duties we owe to man, whether our superiors, equals, or inferiors. Give us grace that we may obey Thy holy precepts in all things, and not give just offence to any one, but as much as in us lies, may be useful and beneficial to all our fellow-creatures. Grant that we may so pass our time here, that Thy holy name may have the praise, and that our souls may enjoy comfort in the hour of death, and in the day of our Lord, when he shall come to judge the world in righteousness. Thou hast renewed to us our lives this morning, and continued to us all our daily blessings; assist us to renew also our good resolutions; restrain us from the evils and follies into which we are prone to fall, and quicken us to the offices and duties which we are averse to perform; that we may regulate our lives and our wills by Thy sacred ordinances, and act as becomes Thy faithful servants, through our heavenly Master, Preserver, and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XX.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O God, who declarest Thy Almighty power most chiefly in shewing mercy and pity, receive the prayers of Thy humble servants, and accept of our most grateful endeavours to praise Thee for Thy watchful care of us this last night. Thy never-failing Providence orders all things in heaven and in earth, and we Thy unworthy creatures, after refreshing sleep, awake to behold Thy power and goodness shining forth in all Thy mighty acts of continued mercy. We implore Thy blessing and protection during this day; mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities protect us by Thy good Spirit from all things hurtful, and incline our hearts to serve Thee devoutly in every worldly undertaking. Thou, O God, by Thy blessed Son hast set us an example of active benevolence, and to every state of our life Thou hast allotted duties peculiar to our talents and situations. O may we each fulfil our appointed task, knowing that we cannot deceive Thy all-seeing eye, for even the thoughts of our hearts are known to Thee. Thou art about our path, and about our bed, and spiest out all our ways. Whatever be our station, or our appointed employment, whether our power of serving our God or our neighbour be great or small, we must never forget that it behoves us to take heed to all our ways. No

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one is too high, or too low, to be unheeded by our Heavenly Father, whose judgments are in all the earth, and in whose sight a thousand years are but as yesterday. Every idle word is known; and blessed be God, every good thought also, is registered in the book of life. We must therefore fear and tremble at our own unworthiness; but we may rejoice and hope in the wonderful promises of mercy to all who truly repent of their former sins, who stedfastly purpose to lead a new life, and have a lively faith in God's mercy through Christ, with a thankful remembrance of His death, which made atonement for the sins of the whole world. To this faith may we add our earnest endeavours to live as becomes those whom the Lord hath visited and redeemed with His most precious blood. O Heavenly Father, we pray Thee that Thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works. Bless this family, merciful Lord; cleanse us from our sins, and grant us pardon and peace, that we may serve Thee with a quiet mind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXI.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O God, whose never-failing Providence ordereth all things in heaven and in earth, we offer up our first thoughts towards Thy mercy-seat, in thankful praises for Thy fatherly care of us during the night. Keep us this day from all things hurtful to us, from the allurements of whatever may pollute our minds, to the injury of our Christian faith; and from such accidents and misfortunes as may hurt our bodies and distract our thoughts. O Lord God, may we walk circumspectly, not as fools, who neglect the interest of their immortal souls, but as the wise who understand what the will of their Lord is, and prudently resolve to perform it by all means in their power. O merciful Father, grant that we may approve things that are excellent, and that we may be sincere and without offence towards Thee and towards men, and that we may set our affections on things above, and not on things on earth. Give us, O Lord, that true wisdom which assures us we shall never do amiss, if we remember the end of whatever we take in hand. We know the advantage of serious reflection in every worldly concern, and shall we, O Lord, put time in competition with eternity! this fleeting moment, passing as we name it! this uncertain little span of life, ending we know not when or how! Shall we live as the brutes that perish? and



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even close our eyes to the living examples which Supreme Wisdom sets before us in every work of his Almighty power. O Lord, let us consider our ways before it be too late, to redeem the time we have lost; the little day of life soon wears away, the night of death cometh, when we can no longer work out our salvation, but must rise in the state of mind in which we died, and appear at the judgment-seat of Christ, to give an account of our actions, and to be tried by the laws of his Gospel. O let us study these easy, merciful commands, and adapt them to every situation of life: we are all called to salvation, all are the children of grace, if they will repent and turn to God. The prodigal son and the penitent thief are named for the encouragement of humble sinners who cease to do evil, and to prove to the most unlearned mind that God looketh to the heart, and will accept the sincere penitence of a sinner, who through faith in Christ Jesus does truly and earnestly repent of his former sins, and stedfastly purpose to lead a new life. May each of us, in our respective conditions, ever keep in view the future account we must one day give, and so rule our passions, our property, and our time, that we may be able to say, "I sought the Lord and he heard me, yea he delivered "me out of all my fear." Therefore it is meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

Most merciful Lord God, the gracious Author of our being, and the Source of all that renders it happy, we still live in the enjoyment of the numerous blessings which Thou hast bestowed on us, and we praise Thee, O God, for Thy great goodness towards this family, who here assemble themselves to unite their thanksgivings for Thy past favours, and to request Thy care and protection during this day. Make us, O Lord, watchful over our own hearts, for out of the heart of man proceed evil thoughts, which, if not checked by every effort of prayer to the Almighty for his Holy Spirit to assist our weak endeavours, too soon, alas! would increase. O Lord God, guide our thoughts, for who can tell how oft he offendeth, or how far our great enemy may prevail to draw us from every duty to God and man. O Heavenly Father, suffer us not to forget Thy great compassion in sending Thy dear Son into the world, to deliver us from that state of condemnation into which we were fallen. O make us circumspect in all our conduct, and upright in all our intentions. Give us grace to improve our time, and every talent which Thou hast committed to our care. Leave us not nor forsake us, O Lord, Thou God of truth; for it is not the knowledge of our duty that will secure the practice of it. Through

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the depravity of our hearts, we are capable of disregarding every precept Thou hast enforced, every example Thou hast placed before our eyes, and every mercy Thou hast bestowed upon us. O gracious God, hold Thou us up, that our footsteps slip not. Thou hast promised to give Thy blessing and Thy Holy Spirit to them who ask Thee, O bestow Thy blessing upon us who now ask, and be present with us every moment of the day. Let no gifts, or talents, or worldly gratifications, make us forget that we are in Thy sight. Blessed be Thy name for the comforts we severally enjoy. To Thee we are indebted for health and safety, and every advantage we possess. If death come not into this house, if evil tidings be not brought us, if disease be kept away or removed from us, it is wholly owing to Thy Fatherly care. O may each member of this family recollect their own personal mercies, and in their hearts bless Thee. Let Thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech Thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that Thou wouldest have done, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXIII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

EVERY day, O Lord, will we give thanks unto Thee, and praise Thy name for ever and ever. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all ages: there is no end of Thy greatness. O then, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is gracious, and His mercy endureth for ever. Who can express the noble acts of the Lord, or shew forth all His praise? We have sinned with our fathers, we have done amiss and dealt wickedly, but Thy word is a light to our paths, Thy blessed Gospel is our sure guide through life, Thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ the sure Rock of our salvation in the life to come. And now, O Lord God, let us go on our way rejoicing. We bless Thee for Thy preservation of us during the perils of the last night: since we know that many have been kept awake by the sundry dangers and disastes of this mortal state. We have laid down and slept, and again we meet in our usual health, to resume our daily round of duties. O Lord God, the way of the wicked is as darkness, but the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers, but the countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil. O Heavenly Father, preserve us in Thy mercy from the



evil

evil of our own hearts, and from the counsel of the ungodly, for Thou hast never failed them that seek Thee. Help cometh from God, who preserveth them that are true of heart. O do Thou purify our thoughts, that we may shew the work of the law written in our hearts; for not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. O Lord God, without Thee we can do nothing that is good; for if Thy presence go not with us, there will be no rest to our souls: in prosperity the destroyer may come upon us, and death sooner or later will part us from all we hold dear on earth. Thou, O Lord, wilt judge whether we have walked innocently, and have put our trust in the Lord our God. There is not a word in our tongue, but Thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether. We acknowledge our transgressions. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise: for to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Him. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, yea unto such as call upon Him faithfully, and will save such as be of an humble spirit, through the merits of our only Mediator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXIV.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ACCEPT, O Heavenly Father, our grateful thanks for all Thy mercies bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, our everliving Mediator. We are daily more and more indebted to Thee for fresh marks of Thy Fatherly bounty and the wonderful displays of Thy Divine power. We have slept in safety, and we are again before Thee to join in praises for the personal blessings Thou hast granted to each and all of us, and to pray to Thee, O Thou Giver of all good, for the continuance of thy mercy towards us. O pardon our feeble efforts to set forth thy praise, and our weak endeavours to serve Thee. We are sinful mortals, earthly minded, made of the dust, and shortly must return to the earth from whence we were taken. Thou art our God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. O Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, Three Persons and One God, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners. Remember not our offences; but pardon us, O Lord, whom Thou hast redeemed by a full and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of all mankind; for to the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses though we have rebelled against Him, neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he hath set before us. O let us turn from all evil, for Christ came into the world

to

to save sinners, and willeth that all should repent and be forgiven. We humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, to grant, that we may all perceive and know what things we ought to do, and that we may have grace and power faithfully to perform our respective duties. Parents and children, masters and servants, have equally the guide of the Holy Gospel, by which they may learn so to live as to please their God; and whether we attend or not to the precepts of our heavenly Teacher Jesus Christ, we must all be tried by the laws of the Gospel, in the presence of the Lord of the whole earth, when He shall judge every man according to his works. Then they that have done good shall go to the resurrection of eternal happiness, and they that have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation. O Lord God, may this aweful truth vibrate in our ears, and be noted in our hearts, to excite us to every thing that is right and praise-worthy, and to deter us forcibly from all that is blameable and wrong. With humble confidence in the Rock of our Salvation, and with firm intentions to do our duty towards God, and towards our neighbour, we conclude our prayers, and sum up all our wants in the words which Christ himself has taught us.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXV.

## MORNING PRAYER.

O Most Holy Lord God Almighty, before whom all knees do bend, and to whom all creatures in heaven and in earth do bow; we prostrate ourselves before Thee this morning, in obedience to our blessed Lord, who commanded us to pray after such manner, as He in pity to our infirmities was pleased to dictate. Mercifully accept our prayers, which we offer up with all the powers of our soul to Thy infinite goodness, submitting ourselves, with all lowliness and reverence, to the greatness of Thy dominion and power; for Thou only art Holy, Thou only art the Lord, therefore Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high. Thou, Lord, hatest nothing that Thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all that are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we may so lament and acknowledge our sins, that we may obtain of Thee perfect remission and forgiveness, for Jesus Christ's sake. We pray Thee, O Lord, to bless this our morning offering, the first fruits of our invigorated spirits, the first earnest thoughts of the day, before the cares and anxieties, the busy employments, or the changes and chances of this mortal life, call off our attention from the thoughts of eternity. How easily, alas! do we forget our best resolutions, how soon do we give way to every

every worldly solicitation, and seem wholly absorbed in our daily employments, as if we had this life for ever, and could rule and direct events at our own will. O Lord God, how weak are our powers! how short and uncertain our longest period of existence! O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, keep us we pray Thee, both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended in all adversities which happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul. Give us convenient supplies in all our reasonable necessities, that we may serve Thee with a quiet mind, in whatever situation of life we are placed. If we have this world's goods, let us remember that we must be ready to give, and glad to distribute, that we must be merciful after our power. If we have little, that we must be diligent to do good, according to our means; for whosoever shall give even a cup of cold water, in the name of Christ, shall not lose his reward. Thus encouraged by Thy gracious promises, grant unto Thy people that they may love that which Thou commandest, and that among the sundry changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXVI.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ETERNAL, and MOST GRACIOUS GOD, we Thy sinful creatures, humble ourselves before Thee, being truly sensible of our own unworthiness, by reason of very many offences committed against Thee, in thought, word, and deed. But we are still the objects of Thy mercy. Thou hast kept us under Thy protection the last night. O Lord, for Thy mercies' sake, still continue to protect us, forgive our innumerable sins and follies, which we with sorrow confess unto Thee; and pardon, we beseech Thee, our manifold neglects and careless performance of our duties. We know, O Lord, that our most secret sins are known to Thee; and that Thou seest the thoughts of our hearts, and all our intentions, in every action and employment of the day. Our wilful transgressions, and imperfect performance of our religious and our moral obligations are noted in Thy book. Our evil dispositions, of what nature or kind soever, do not escape Thy notice; though hardly regarded by ourselves, or passed over as trifling failings, too small to alarm our consciences. O Lord, we tremble if we reflect on the errors of our lives; and if we do not reflect, alas! what may be our fatal lot hereafter. Make us therefore deeply sensible of the danger of our ways in sin, which is sure to gain ground if we do not most earnestly

endeavour

endeavour to root out every irregular inclination, as soon as it is formed in our hearts. For this end, it is most needful that we should perpetually implore Thy divine goodness, to inspire us with the aid and assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, so that we may daily improve in virtue and piety. Enable us so to live, that we may fully answer the purpose of our creation, and suffer not the love of any temporal good things, too much to possess our minds; but let every earthly blessing which Thy bounty grants for our comfort and support, raise our ideas to such heavenly enjoyments, as are pure and holy, unmixt with the doubts and cares, and anxieties of terrestrial happiness. Make us all satisfied with the justice and reasonableness of every dispensation of Thy providence; and grant that we may all, from the highest to the lowest, obey Thy commands, fear Thy displeasure, and trust in Thy promises through Christ our Lord. Enable us to be more watchful over the corruptions of our nature, and enlighten our dark minds, that we may not be ignorant of our duty to Thee our God, and to our fellow creatures. For Thy great goodness' sake, O Lord, extend Thy mercy to us in the full pardon of our transgressions, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXVII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast of Thy goodness defended us from the perils of the night, and safely brought us to the beginning of this day, vouchsafe to preserve us, we humbly beseech Thee, and to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our souls and bodies, in the way of Thy laws and in the works of Thy commandments; that through Thy gracious protection we may be kept from all evil, this day and for ever. Possess our minds continually with Thy presence; lead us forth in Thy truth, and teach us to do such things as are pleasing to Thee and profitable for our souls; for Thou art the God of our salvation, and in Thee shall be our hope all the day long. O let us not trust to the deceitfulness of our own hearts, nor the impulses of our inclinations, nor to the doubtful advice of erring mortals, in any case where Thy Holy Gospel clearly sets forth our duty; which we should perform with an honest heart, and not evade thy plain commands, as we often do, to indulge ourselves in the pursuit of fancied gratifications. O Lord God, in our hearts we know and must confess to Thee, that our real pleasures and lasting satisfaction is only in the recollection of whatever we can have done, which we may hope is in any way pleasing in Thy sight, who knowing the extent of our abilities every way, wilt look

with

with compassion and eternal goodness upon Thy creatures, for the Lord is loving unto every man, and His mercy is over all His works. We pray Thee, O Lord, to increase in us Thy gifts of grace, that we may be preserved in Thy faith, fear, and love; and bring forth the fruits of the Spirit to Thy glory, before the face of all people in this perverse generation. In all our conversation and dealings with each other, may we be affable, sincere, and just, and, as much as is in our power, live in peace and good will among all sorts and conditions of men; so that we may induce our associates also to be inoffensive, seeing that our circumspection and moderation worketh charity, doth not behave unseemly, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth. Keep Thy servants, O Lord, from all presumptuous sins, that even the wicked may be convinced that Thy law is an undefiled law, converting the soul. O merciful Father, pardon all our transgressions, that we may be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Establish our faith, fix our good resolutions, guide our thoughts, and guard us, and all our relations and friends, from all evils of mind and body, for Jesus Christ's sake, our most merciful Deliverer, and never failing Intercessor. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXVIII.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ETERNAL and EVER BLESSED GOD, by whom all things were made, and by whom they are upheld, mercifully look down from the throne of thy glory, upon the poor unworthy creatures who kneel before Thee in grateful adoration and praise, for Thy gracious preservation of us another night. Blessed be Thy name for giving us a Mediator, through whom we may approach Thee and obtain mercy. Blessed be Thy name, for the promise of Thy Holy Spirit to purify our hearts. Be mercifully pleased, O Lord, to be with all of us this day in our several situations, keeping us from evils and dangers of every kind. Let us remember, in the use and enjoyment of our bodily comforts, that we are weak and sinful creatures, and that whatever renders life comfortable, we owe to Thy divine grace. O Lord, we have not words that will express our obligations to Thee, but we ought to acknowledge Thy perfections, and take pleasure in ascribing all power, wisdom, holiness, and goodness to our Almighty Creator and Heavenly Father. We humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, to give Thy blessing to all our labours, and grant that all our employments and pursuits, may be such as will not disgrace our baptismal vows. Let not our hearts be too much taken up by those things in which our hands must be employed this day. Teach us, O Lord,

the

the blessed art of following worldly employments with a heavenly mind. If we are in prosperity, may we be thankful, and moderate in our enjoyments; if we are in adversity, grant, O Lord, that we may be patient and submissive. If reproached, may we be meek; if poor, contented. Whatever evils befal us, may we look to God as our support and refuge; may the language of our hearts be always "Lord, what wouldest Thou have me to do?" Deliver us all from pride, obstinacy, and prejudice; give us to see what true Christianity is, and open the eyes of all who call themselves Christians, and yet consider not the end for which Christ came into the world. O that we, and all the inhabitants of these kingdoms, may set a due value on the truths of the glorious Gospel; and may Thy Holy Spirit shed into our hearts an unfeigned love for Christ, that we may live for Him who lived and died for us. Be gracious, O Father of mercies, to all sufferers, may their sorrows bring their sins to remembrance, and turn all those who are going forward in the broad road that leadeth to destruction. O Lord, strengthen us in Thy faith and fear; uphold us this day with the right hand of Thy righteousness, that we may be kept from sinning against Thee, through the continued grace and mediation of Jesus Christ, who has taught us when we pray to say,

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXIX.

## MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and EVERLASTING GOD, who dost govern all things in heaven and in earth, mercifully hear the supplications of Thy people when they devoutly call upon Thee, granting us such things as are suitable to us, and checking, by Thy grace, such demands and wishes as in Thy supreme goodness Thou knowest to be hurtful to our souls. In all things let us be contented with our limited gifts; and being thoroughly convinced that we cannot command the sun to shine or the rain to fall, so let us feel sensible of the vast power of our God, and of our entire dependance on His holy will. Almighty Father, Thy tender mercies ought to soften and humble our minds. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and declare the wonders that He doeth for the children of men. Thou, Lord, hast given different gifts, according to Thy grace, to each of us; let us wait upon Thee as Thou hast severally appointed for us, not murmuring, or interfering with the duties of others, but approving Thy blessed will in the distribution of our talents and stations in this transitory life. Let us all be kindly affectioned one towards another with brotherly love, and do Thy will with cheerfulness, whether we are placed as rulers or dependents, rich or poor, wise or ignorant. The Lord careth

for

for us all, and will reward every man according to his work. O Lord God, pity and pardon our numberless sins and transgressions, root out pride and self will from our hearts, that every one of us may think no more highly of himself than he ought to think; but think soberly, according as God hath given severally to us all; for as we have many members in our natural body, and all our members have not the same office, so are we separate members in society, with different worldly duties. But, blessed be God, we are all, through faith, members of one body in Christ Jesus our Lord. Grant, O merciful Father, that none of us in this Christian land, may be slothful servants, who know the will of our Heavenly Master, but neglect the duty He has set us to perform: for to obey is better than sacrifice. Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. Thy commands are easy, Thy burthens are light. O leave us not, neither forsake us, Thou God of our salvation; but assist us to go through this day by Thy sacred rules, which are given to all sorts and conditions of men. We pray Thee to enable us to govern our tempers and our actions, should the transactions of the day awaken any of the corrupt feelings of our hearts. And should any event arise to agitate or distress us, let us look up with humility to thy mighty power and wisdom, for strength of mind to direct our exertions in the best manner, and to fortify us with pious resignation, that we may submit contentedly to Thy dispensations through faith in the promises and atonement of our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXX.

## MORNING PRAYER.

REJOICE in the Lord always, and give thanks with joyful hearts for the continual mercies day by day conferred upon us unworthy beings. We have slept securely in comfort; the Lord hath sustained us; and we resume our daily course of life with invigorated health and spirits. The Lord hath dealt graciously with His servants; let it be our most fervent resolution, and most satisfactory employment to promote, by all means in our power, the glory of God and the good of mankind. Let the fixed law of our minds be to fear God and honour the King, to render unto all their dues, and to keep our tongues from evil-speaking, lying, and slandering; for blessed are the peace-makers, and blessed is the man who hath not walked in the council of the ungodly. O Lord, the mercies of every hour call for our most grateful acknowledgments; how many accidents have we escaped which have been fatal to numbers around us. From the earliest dawn of recollection many of us can look back to scenes of happiness and blessings which God Almighty has bestowed on us, with which others have not been indulged. We will therefore rejoice in the Lord, and praise Him according to His excellent greatness; for the Lord hath pleasure in the prosperity of His people, and helpeth the meek-hearted. O ye kings of the earth, and all people, princes and all judges of the world, young men

and

and maidens, old men and children, praise the name of the Lord, for His name only is excellent, and His praise above heaven and earth. O Lord, let Thy ways be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations; for Thou hast given Thy Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification. Christ sitteth at the right hand of God, ever to intercede for the sins and ignorances of His wicked and ungrateful servants. Pardon, O Lord, and heal our souls: turn us, O God our Saviour, and let Thine anger cease from us. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him; the Lord preserveth all them that love Him. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him, He will hear their cry and will help them. O Lord, shew us the way that we should walk in, for in Thee is our trust. Deliver us, O Lord God, and gather us from the heathen who have rebelled against the words of the Lord, and have lightly regarded God their Saviour. Look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth, so great also is His mercy towards them that fear Him. Like as a father pitieth his own children, even so is the Lord merciful to His people; for He is the Lord our God, glory and worship are before Him, power and honour are in His sanctuary. The Lord will not fail His people, neither will He forsake such as are true of heart: therefore will we rejoice in the Lord always, for He is our light and our salvation, whom then shall we fear; the Lord is the strength of our life, of whom then shall we be afraid. O praise the Lord with me, and let us magnify His name together. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## I.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.

O MOST holy, great and glorious Majesty of heaven and earth, to whom the blessed company of angels do with the highest adoration give continual thanks and praise, honour, worship, and obedience; acknowledging Thou art above all that they are able to speak, or ascribe and render unto Thee. How much more, O Lord, art Thou exalted above the thoughts of poor mortals, whose souls are clothed in flesh, and live far remote from the throne of Thy glory! Yet such is Thy goodness, that Thou dost condescend to admit us to the fellowship of those holy spirits, that we may be called Thy servants; though when we have done our best, alas! how unprofitable are we all! What is man that Thou art mindful of him? what are the sons of men that Thou dost consider them? Thou hast crowned us with honour here below, and raised us to dominion over the works of Thy hands: Thou hast endued us with understanding to know Thee, and with minds capable to love, serve, and obey Thee, whose most excellent wisdom, Almighty power, and surpassing goodness, we discover in all Thy works. O Lord, what grace was this, that Thou shouldest vouchsafe to communicate any thing of Thy will to such ungrateful, such forgetful creatures. But that Thou shouldest speak to us by Thy Son, and publish such kind intentions to us in the blessed Gospel, and that Thou shouldest recover us with so much

cost,

cost, even with the precious blood of the holy Jesus, and didst send Thy Holy Spirit to purify our hearts, that Thy image might be renewed in us, so as to be fit society for Thyself again, and be raised to immortal life! O Lord God, how much doth this exceed all belief! But Thou, in tender mercy to our weak understandings, hast given us full assurance of it. We praise Thee, O God; we magnify Thy holy name: We are bound to Thee more than all other of Thy created works, and Thou hast a double title to our love and gratitude, for our creation and our redemption. O fill our hearts with joy and gladness that we have on this day another opportunity of worshipping Thee in public, and of attending upon Thee in Thy house of prayer. May we be under the comfortable influences of heaven, and cherish all holy thoughts and resolutions, and so attend to Thy will declared by our Saviour, and preached by His faithful ministers, that we may grow in grace, and increase in wisdom and goodness. Inspire, we beseech Thee, O Lord, all hearts to glorify Thy great and holy name. Teach us all, O God, the way of Thy statutes, and enable us to keep Thy commandments; that when we have lived in Thy faith and fear, we may complete our praises and thanksgivings, in the eternal assembly of saints and angels, through the mediation and merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.' *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## II.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.

O MOST mighty and glorious God, who madest the heavens in which Thou dwellest; whose infinite power created angels and men, and all the wonderful works that we behold. The creatures moving upon the face of the earth, in sea and land, shew forth Thy praise. The firmament above shines in mercy to mankind, the beautiful vegetation of the garden of Eden is spared to fallen man, to refresh his labours after the heat and burthen of the day, to renew his strength, and to revive his hopes. O God most merciful, let every tree, and flower, and herb, and fruit, conspire to raise our grateful hearts to Thee, the Author and Giver of all that diffuses pleasure and comfort in this mortal life. Let the light direct our eyes to behold Thee in all Thy works, and let the thoughts of our hearts pursue the theme of Thy marvellous goodness, in sparing us from Thy wrath, which our sins had incurred; and in redeeming us from eternal death, by the sacrifice of our blessed Lord and Saviour, through whose sufferings, we are made sons of adoption and grace. O blessed Jesus, on this Thy holy day we celebrate Thy glorious resurrection from the dead, the sabbath sacred to our God, the rest of the Lord of hosts! the day enjoined by divine appointment, for man and beast to rest from labour. O let us rest from sin, that rest will please Thee most.

most. Let only such needful employments as our gracious Redeemer permitted, occupy any part of the time devoted to our Heavenly Master; who himself became man, and took upon Him our infirmities, and pleaded for our weakness in those memorable words of pity, saying, that the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath. But, O Lord, enable us to distinguish between the works of necessity, and the too frequent sin of the worldly-minded, who profane the Lord's day. It is to the Christian a repose from the business of human life, in which he is ordained to be actively employed, but is still enjoined to preserve a heavenly mind: Thou hast in mercy, O Lord, blessed the seventh day, and established the sabbath, that we may renovate our minds by holy rest, and devote ourselves publicly to Thy service. O may we join in the worship of Thy church with joy and gladness: make us fervent and devout in prayer; and attentive to the word of God, spoken by His appointed ministers of the Gospel; let us listen with due reverence to their sacred office, and learn our duty with humility, so shall we return with thankful hearts, to praise and adore Thee in private, and to teach those who come after us to glorify Thy name in the next generation. *Amen.* So be it.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## III.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY LORD GOD, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, Thou hast been pleased in great mercy to preserve us until this time. The return of another day so particularly consecrated to Thy service, calls upon us to reflect upon the days that are past, and to form devout resolutions for the time in which Thou mayest still continue to grant us life. Such among us as are enabled to attend divine service in Thy church, we pray Thee to inspire with such warm devotion, and pious attention, that they may benefit by the prayers in which they join; and call down Thy pity upon those, who, from necessity are not at the same moment uniting their prayers and praises to Thy Divine Majesty. O Lord our God, have compassion upon such as are called upon to perform the duties due to the sick, or their own infirmities; or to the needful employments in which they are engaged, and grant that they may share in the devotions, which are publicly offered up in their behalf. We humbly beseech Thee, to ingraft into all our hearts, the most firm conviction and constant recollection, that we are always in Thy sight, and that Thou hast given us minds to think, and tongues to speak, to the glory and honour of Thy name. O Heavenly and Merciful Father, direct our thoughts, and guard our tongues from uttering the evil of our hearts, which

perpetually

perpetually opposes the good resolutions we form; and may we use our best reason to withstand the wiles of the devil, and the vanities of the world. But vain are the efforts of our understanding, and vain is the help of man in all things, without the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, and Thy aiding grace to confirm His purposes. All power and dominion is solely in the Lord, who governs the world, and reigns over the kings of the earth; who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom. O Lord our God, we know that Thou lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity; we pray Thee to keep us mindful of this great truth, that we may never relax in our earnest endeavours to please Thee, whose favour is better than this life and all its joys, for Thou givest life eternal to such as love Thee and keep Thy commandments. O grant us the healthful Spirit of Thy grace, that we may truly please Thee; and so walk in the light of Thy truth, that we may at length attain to the light of life immortal through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## IV.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.

O LORD, whose goodness is everlasting, Thou art the eternal Source of all perfection, and the immortal Spring of life, the Fountain of all existence, the First and the Last, without beginning of days, or end of years. O God of infinite compassion, hear our prayers, and direct us this blessed day, how we may most acceptably offer up our devotions to Thy mercy-seat, in our closets, in our family, and in the congregation of Thy church. Let us welcome the day which the Lord hath made, which He hath sanctified to Himself, and called it by His most holy name. Let our private devotions fit and prepare us for Thy public worship, and give us of Thy Holy Spirit, gracious Lord, that all Thy ordinances may be made profitable to us. Glory be to Thee, O Heavenly Father, who, in compassion to human weakness, which is not capable of uninterrupted contemplation of Thee, hast appointed a solemn day for the remembrance of Thine inestimable blessings of creation and redemption. Glory be to Thee, for thus proportioning a seventh part of our time to Thyself, and the concerns of our souls, while Thou hast liberally indulged the remainder to our own use. O let us not forget the account we must give of this beneficent liberty; this free gift of heavenly bounty; which makes us answerable for the conduct of our lives.

O let

O let us adore Thy mercy for fixing stated seasons for recollection, and religious duties, to consider of this great responsibility. O let us join in the prayers and praises of the church, with ardent and heavenly affections; let us hear Thy word with earnest attention, and with a firm resolution of mind to observe and obey it. Let us employ this day to all those holy purposes Thou hast appointed, in works of necessity, devotion, and charity; in prayer, praise, and meditation: and may our hearts be made fit habitations for Thy Holy Spirit. Accompany Thine own institutions with Thine own blessings; make us to know the will of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, and carefully to study the Scriptures, that we may understand what those reasons are which oblige us to contend for it: but let us not attempt to bring down the mysteries of faith to our finite and imperfect comprehension. O blessed Jesus, Thou hast given us Thy holy Gospel, not for a subject of dispute, but for the rule of our practice, and Thy sacred promises are given only to obedience and active service. O let us all study Thy word; and forasmuch as without Thee we are not able to please Thee, mercifully grant that Thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts. Let us all this day lay aside the cares of the world, and take into our thoughts the joys of heaven, and aspire to those mansions of peace and happiness, where our Saviour Jesus Christ will exalt His faithful servants for ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

V.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER.

HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is Thine, the earth also and all that therein is. Thou art every where, and cannot be excluded from any place; Thou art present to the greatest secrets of our souls, and seest the closest and most retired thoughts of our hearts. Thou knowest well with what designs and affections we now bow ourselves before Thee, and canst not be deceived by any form of words that we are able to utter in Thy praise, if our hearts are not filled with devotion, fear, and love to Thee our Almighty Creator, for Thy never-ceasing bounty and marvellous love towards us. We can do no less than devote ourselves entirely to Thee, and take every opportunity in our power to worship and serve Thee, in the constant exercise of faith, prayer, and praise; and in all the duties of charity to our fellow creatures. We humbly pray Thee that Thy good Spirit may accompany us in all our duties, and especially in the sacred duties of Thy sabbath; that we may purify our hearts, and call to mind, with sorrow, the sins and follies of the last week. Alas! we shall too surely find that our daily prayers have not effectually deterred us from various offences against Thy holy laws, nor have we served Thee with a perfect heart and with a willing mind. Thou, Lord, understandest all the imaginations of our thoughts. O Lord, we dread to search into our

own

own hearts, for we behold there too much that is evil, and ungrateful to Thy Fatherly tenderness and indulgence towards us. O Lord, the hearts of all men are in Thy hands, and Thou canst work in us a power to will and to do of Thy good pleasure. O Lord Jesus, sanctify our hearts, and cleanse us from our natural propensities to sin; speak the word, and heal our souls. Remember not our sins and offences, but, according to Thy mercy, think Thou upon us, and O Lord God, let us enter Thy courts this day with joy and gladness. O gracious Lord, be pleased to bless the assemblies of Christian worship with the tokens of Thy presence, that those who wait on Thee may feel that they are in the house of God, and, as it were, at the gate of heaven. Let Thy word humble the proud, melt the hardened, sanctify the unholy, and comfort the distressed. Grant, O blessed Lord, that Thy laws may be engraven on our hearts, and every sacred truth be faithfully preserved and kept in our minds as the rule of our life, the ground of our hope, and the powerful motive of our obedience to Thee, to the end of our days. Keep us, merciful Father, from relapsing into the sins we have repented of, and yet more from continuing in sins without repentance: let us constantly strive to resist every evil thought, and use the proper weapon against every sin. Let the light of Thy grace support us in the way to light and life everlasting, through the merits and sufferings of our blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

# SACRAMENT DAY MORNING.

## SUPPLICATION.

BLESSED LORD, let it not be laid to my charge at the aweful day of judgment that I have entirely neglected to exhort my family to obey Thy holy ordinances, according to Thy Divine commands.

## ADMONITION.

The Minister has given timely notice that he will on this day administer the holy sacrament to all such as are devoutly and religiously disposed, and I remind you of it, because throughout the Scriptures, Almighty God has made it the particular duty of parents and masters, to teach their household to keep the laws, and obey the will of the Lord their God. The fourth commandment contains an awful admonition to us all, respecting orders frequently given to rulers, and all who have children or servants, or a stranger within their gates. The Lord speaks by the mouth of the prophet Ezekiel, "Hallow my sabbaths, and they shall be a sign between me and "you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God." The prophet Nehemiah reproves the people for bringing down the wrath of God on their nation. "What evil thing is this that ye do, and "profane the sabbath-day; did not your fathers thus, and did not "God bring this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring "more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath." Our blessed Lord,

Lord, in tender mercy to our infirmities, abolished the severer rules of the Jewish church, which made the sabbath a weariness to man. Let us never be ungrateful for this indulgent mark of our Saviour's love to His Christian servants. We, of these kingdoms, are by legal authority, founded on the laws of the Gospel, restrained from many liberties which would tempt us to neglect the sacred duties instituted by Christ himself, and appointed by our established church. I beg of you to remember the instructions you have received by our daily readings in the Holy Scriptures, and that you will particularly call to mind our blessed Lord's last injunctions, when he ordained the Holy Sacrament. It has frequently been explained to you from the pulpit, whence we have been admonished to frequent the Lord's Table, in remembrance of His meritorious cross and passion, whereby alone we obtain remission of sins, and are made partakers of the kingdom of Heaven. To prepare ourselves for this holy communion, we are to repent of our sins, and firmly resolve to forsake them, to feel a Christian charity towards all our fellow creatures, and to have a stedfast faith in the merits and atonement of Christ our Saviour, that so we may take this Holy Sacrament to our own eternal comfort, and that we may have grace to do so, let us devoutly and earnestly pray.

## SACRAMENT-DAY MORNING PRAYER.

O Lord, our most gracious God, slow to anger and of great goodness, mercifully grant us true repentance, and heart-felt sorrow, for all the sins we have at any time committed against Thee. Forgive us all our iniquities for Christ's sake, and turn our hearts to Thee, the living God, while the day of life is spared to us whilst pardon may be sought, and an opportunity is afforded us to prove the sincerity of our repentance. On this return of a day so especially consecrated to the most solemn ordinances, give us grace, Almighty Father, to search out our hearts and examine our ways, and to reflect seriously, every one of us, on our own particular sins and general conduct. Blessed Lord, enable us all to do this with earnest attention, and pious resolutions, suited to our several wants and weaknesses, and the particular offences of our lives. O Lord our God, inspire with holy zeal and fervent devotion, all those who intend this day to approach Thy altar; that they may join in those sacred mysteries with true reverence, and so eat of that bread and drink of that cup, that they may be partakers of the most blessed body and blood of Christ our Saviour, and be preserved in body and soul, unto everlasting life. O Lord God of our salvation, hear us when we call upon Thee, and let not the enemy prevail against us. O may we serve Thee in this world in

spirit

spirit and in truth, in word and deed; for Thy Gospel, O Lord Christ, is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, and the Lord shall be King over all the earth, in that "day shall there be One Lord, and His name One." Grant, O Heavenly Father, that when we have finished our course, we may behold Thy eternal glory in heaven, and dwell in Thy glorious kingdom, where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest; where God shall be all in all, blessed for evermore. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

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Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

THE END.

JAQUES, PRINTER, LOWER SLOANE STREET, CHELSEA.

# THIRTY-SIX EVENING PRAYERS,

BY

## A Lady, < Lady Chandos >

## AS USED IN HER OWN FAMILY:

INSCRIBED, WITH PERMISSION,

TO THE

## REV. ARCHDEACON NARES.

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." 2 Cor. viii. 12.

"Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh to you." James iv. 8.

"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." 1 John ii. 25.

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# INTRODUCTION.

THE inexhaustible source of piety, given to us in the HOLY SCRIPTURES, and diffused through the writings of our most eminent Divines, furnishes ample store of pure doctrine, and exemplary modes of address to the Supreme Being, for the imitation of well-meaning Christians, in their public and private devotions. The learned reader will quickly perceive whence the present gleanings have been taken. The Lady, who presumes to add these Prayers to the collections and originals already before the public, has lived to witness the increased prevalence of Family Devotions within the last twenty years; before which period, she had felt the want of publications to suit the wearied spirits, and the various feelings and capacities of her household auditors. She has experienced the convenience of the present arrangement, which has for its object, sound doctrine, brevity, and variety of style. The Lord's Prayer is

prefixed

prefixed on the first page, to save the repetition at the end of each prayer; and the prayers are so printed as to avoid the necessity of turning a leaf during their perusal. No provision is made for the casualties incident to every family: the well known and much approved "Family Worship," of the Rev. James Bean, supplies religious help suited to such particular occurrences. The plagiarisms from this author are made with his liberal permission, but are confined to such topics as are of general and daily use.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER.

OUR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. *Amen.*

THE Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

## I.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Thou infinitely great and glorious Being! God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Almighty Creator and constant Preserver of all things in heaven and earth; we bow before Thee, our Father which is in heaven, with reverence, with joy, and with hope; for Thou hast created us, Thou art the God in whose hand is our life. We are redeemed by Thy mercy, fed by Thy bounty, and upheld by Thy power. It is our duty to glorify Thee for all Thy mercies, and every sentiment of gratitude and adoration which our hearts can feel, is due to Thee, the Father of all goodness, and the God eternal in spirit and in truth. Every act of obedience, of homage and submission, is due to Thee, our Sovereign! our Redeemer! our everliving Intercessor! and our Judge. What can we render to Thee, for the instruction and promises of Thy Holy Word, for the example and precepts of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and the wonderful provision Thou hast made for the Salvation of our Souls, and the Pardon of our Sins, through the merits of our blessed Saviour? Let it not be in vain, that Thou hast displayed to us Thy goodness and Thy mercy. Blessings in every hour call for our grateful acknowledgements. Thou hast preserved us this day past, and with great beneficence hast supplied us with

various

various good things, as well for the comfort and pleasure, as for the necessary support of this life. O endue us with the spirit of gratitude towards Thee, that we may be devoutly thankful. Endue us with the spirit of wisdom, that we may obey and fear Thee. Endue us with the spirit of meekness, humility, purity, and charity, that we may do Thy Will on earth with zeal and constancy: and to Thy Holy Will, in all our afflictions, may we ever be resigned. Fix our hope in Thy everlasting mercy, and our firm confidence in Thy supreme wisdom. Pardon our disobedience and forgetfulness: pardon all our sins through the mediation of Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves, and all that is our's, into Thy protection, O Lord, this night. In the hours of sleep watch over us, preserve our health and spare our lives; and if it seems good in Thy sight, keep all calamity from this house; make the whole family blessings to each other, and accept our united prayers and adoration in the words taught us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## II.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord, who hast brought us to the close of another day, teach us to look forward to the end of all things earthly. We are admonished by the silence of this present hour to be prepared for that night, when the noise of this busy world will be heard no more. Gracious Father of all mercies, let not that awful night overtake us before the great business of our life be done. How humbled ought we to be when we look back to the actions of this past day, how little time have we spent in Thy service, how few of our thoughts have been employed in the contemplation of our Christian calling; how negligent have we been in the great work of our Salvation, but how earnestly have we pursued our worldly concerns, and how anxiously have we followed our common employments, and attended to the events and affairs of this earthly habitation. Our reason must condemn this shameful folly and inconsistency, and well may we hide our heads to think how careful and troubled we are about such transitory concerns, and how we neglect the one thing needful, which far outweighs them all. O Lord God, pity our weakness, and strengthen our minds, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may amend our lives according to Thy Holy Will. Forgive and cure us of our sinful folly; teach

teach us seriously to consider the shortness and uncertainty of our present life, and the never ending duration of the world to come. What shall it profit us, if we gain the whole world, and lose our hope of everlasting life in Thy heavenly kingdom. O merciful Father, let our souls prosper in every thing that happens to us, and may the remembrance of our sins and Thy mercies, continually occupy our minds, that we may love Thee as the supreme Author of all good, that we may adore Thy Almighty Power, and reverence Thy Holy Name. Let us humbly and earnestly endeavour to follow the blessed doctrines of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who knows our temptations, and remembers we are but dust; but who encourages us to look upward, trusting to his merits and atonement for the sins of all mankind. Forgive, O Lord, we pray Thee, all our negligences, ignorances, and omissions of duty, and all our actual sins in thought, word, and deed, committed against Thy sacred laws this day. Take us, O Lord, and all who are near and dear to us, under Thy care this night, and protect us from all harm. Grant us refreshing rest and sleep, enable us to examine our hearts with care; and if our consciences can in any degree approve our conduct, do Thou make firm our good resolutions, through the assistance of Thy divine Grace. Bless us, and hear our prayers, which we conclude in the words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## III.

## EVENING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed; against Thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us: Give us grace earnestly to repent and to be sorry for these our misdoings, for the remembrance of them is grievous to us. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, according to Thy great goodness, do away our offences, and cleanse us from our sins, make in us new and contrite hearts, that we may lament our past sins and follies, and obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness. Grant us, O Lord, for the time to come, the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to live according to Thy will; that by Thy grace we may be given to all good works. Help us to withstand the enemies of our salvation, the world, the flesh, and the devil, that with pure hearts and minds we may follow Thee, the only God. Grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; graft in our hearts the love of Thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and

of

of Thy great mercy keep us in the same: and Thou, O God, whose never-failing Providence ordereth all things both in heaven and in earth; put from us, we beseech Thee, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; and since it is Thou alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant that we may love the things which Thou commandest, and desire that which Thou dost promise, that so among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found. Teach us so to number our days that we may grow wise unto salvation, and press forward towards the prize of our high calling, with faith and patience, humility and meekness, with mortification and self-denial, with charity and perseverance to the end, that so, when we shall depart this life, we may die in peace and humble confidence, trusting in the Lord that at the general resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in thy sight, and receive the blessing which Thy beloved Son shall then confer upon all who truly love and fear Him, and in whose holy name and words we sum up all our petitions.

*Our Father*, &c. &c.

## IV.

## EVENING PRAYER.

BLESSING and honour, glory and praise, be unto our God, Creator of the world, and Redeemer of all mankind. We offer up our thankful hearts in devotion to Thee, our deliverer, our benefactor, the fountain of all the good things we enjoy at present, and our sure rock of salvation for ever. Accept our humble thanks for Thy renewed kindness to us this day past. Thou art good unto all, and Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Thou hast preserved our life to this moment, and made it easy and comfortable to us by perpetual mercies, which have supported us in many dangers, trials, and afflictions, and made us to bless Thy never ceasing goodness. We confess that we are not worthy of the benefits we have received, and may therefore justly fear Thou shouldest withhold Thy blessings from us, but Thou art good and kind to the unthankful and the evil, and dost encourage us to hope for pardon through the blood of our crucified Saviour: O let it avail to cleanse us from sin, and to sanctify our hearts, so that all who name the name of Christ, may depart from iniquity; and endeavour to be holy, and without blemish in the great day of our Lord's coming to judge the world. O lift up our affections more and more to those things which are above, that our hearts may be in heaven,

heaven, while our bodies live on earth, that we may have perfect contentment of mind in well-doing, and patient suffering through the good hope of our eternal life in Thy heavenly kingdom. Free us from all inordinate cares for the things of this world, from all distrust in Thy good providence, and from all repining at any thing that befalls us. Enable us in every thing to give thanks, believing that all things are ordered by perfect wisdom, and shall work together for good to those who love Thee. And now that we are going to lie down to sleep, we put ourselves, and all that we hold dear, under Thy gracious protection, hoping that Thou wilt take care of us, when we cannot so much as guide our own thoughts, to secure ourselves from any danger that may approach us. When we close our eyes, let holy thoughts occupy our minds, and remain in us, and possess our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying,

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## V.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O God of the spirits of all flesh, who hast made of one blood all nations of men, and hast called the faithful throughout all the world, into one body; so make the multitude of believers, as once they were, of one mind, one heart, and one soul. Let not Thy Church be divided into contending parties, but make us, O Lord, one fold under one Shepherd, our blessed Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us to put away all bitterness and strife, and enable us, O God of patience, to bear one another's burthens, and to overcome evil with good. O may we ever dread to be rigid or cruel, knowing how much we stand in need of Thy never-failing mercy towards ourselves, for all our sins and follies. O make all who are convinced of their sins, not only think of an holy change, but resolve upon it, and go through with it. Make Thy holy word mighty to save, and to guide and govern our hearts and lives in Thy ways, that we may persevere in our Christian calling, that Thy people may grow in grace, shining more and more to the perfect day, when they shall appear before Thee in Thy glorious kingdom. Though we are unworthy and sinful beings, let us hope in the Lord, with whom is mercy and plenteous redemption. Thy faithful promises give assurance of pardon and acceptance to all who truly

truly repent, and believingly apply themselves to Thee, in the name and mediation of Thy Son Jesus Christ. Grant to us a meek and quiet spirit, showing itself in all our conduct through life, make us gentle and peaceable, easy to be intreated, hard to be provoked, not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing, but contrarywise blessing; remembering that our blessed Lord suffered evil, though he deserved so well of all men, and why should such unworthy wretches so heinously resent offences which are often but a just correction of our many errors. Thou, O Lord, canst order the unruly wills of men, O make even our passions servants to Thy grace; change our anger into severity against our own sins; grant us a timorousness to offend, and an awful reverence for thy sacred name, that we may be truly humble, ever considering our own frailties, and earnestly praying in our hearts to resist that pride, which deceives us into a forgetfulness of Thy all-seeing eye. O Lord, pardon our inadvertence, and let the remembrance of Thy presence sway and guide us now, and for evermore, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VI.

## EVENING PRAYER.

Most gracious and merciful God, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and hast promised mercy and forgiveness to all them who confess and forsake their sins; we come before Thee in an humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of Thy righteous laws, in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have every day done many things which Thou hast forbidden, and omitted many duties which Thou hast commanded; so that when we look back on our past lives, and remember that Thou art a God who seest our hearts, and from whom no secrets are hid, we are afraid of Thy judgments, and ashamed to lift up our eyes to Thee. O gracious Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but wouldst that all should repent and live, look upon us in pity, for the merits and sufferings of Thy Son Jesus Christ. Make us deeply sensible of the great evil of sin, and work in us a hearty contrition for our offences; let the remembrance of them be more grievous to us, than of any other evil whatsoever, that it may work in us sincere repentance and hatred of sin, and make us fit to obtain forgiveness and remission. Vouchsafe us, good Lord, the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, to direct our thoughts; and put into our hearts good desires and resolutions of amendment, that

that we may bring the same to good effect in a godly and sober life. Reform what is amiss in our tempers and dispositions, purify our souls, cleanse our hearts, that no unlawful wishes or bad inclinations may abide in us: root out of us all envy, hatred, and malice, that we may go to rest at peace with all mankind, in good will to all, and having a conscience void of offence towards Thee, O heavenly Father, and towards all men. Let our hearts be a fit habitation for Thy Holy Spirit, and our lives be suited to Thy Holy Gospel, that we may, in deep humility, follow the example which our blessed Saviour shewed us in his holy life, while he took our nature upon him. Truly the love of God passeth human understanding, we cannot conceive it; for God's thoughts are not as men's thoughts. We prostrate ourselves to adore, and praise, and bless Thee, O Lord, for Thy wonderful goodness to miserable sinners. O hear us for Christ's sake. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O most gracious and most merciful Father, Thou art a liberal benefactor to all Thy creation, a never-failing friend to mankind, for whose everlasting welfare, Thou hast left no method unattempted, to rescue them from sin and misery. O blessed, for ever blessed be Thy Holy Name, for the experience we all of us have had of this, Thy Fatherly goodness. Eternal praise and thanks be to Thy heavenly Majesty, for that astonishing wonder of Thy love, in giving Thy Son to die for us, to rescue us from eternal death, and to restore us to Thy favour, which our sins had forfeited. O Lord, if at any time we should be so unfortunate as to offend Thee wilfully, help us speedily to recover ourselves, by a serious repentance, and renewed good resolutions, and fervent prayer; that, by the guidance of Thy Holy Spirit, we may apply, through our blessed Saviour's mediation, for pardon and peace. Enable us to look well into our own hearts, that we may discover all our secret sins, and examine ourselves, whether we have endeavoured to renounce the Devil and all his works; and whether we have, on this day, so attended to the salvation of our souls, as to improve our lives, that we may become more fit to appear before Thee in Thy glorious mansions of bliss eternal. Let our minds ever be possessed with a powerful sense of

Thy

Thy holiness, and with an holy care and anxiety to please and obey Thee in all things. Teach us, O Lord, that safe and easy method of censuring ourselves, that we may be acquitted by Thee. Every night let us, as impartial judges, strictly examine the words and actions of the day past, imploring Thy pardon for what we have done amiss, and the assistance of Thy grace for the time to come. If we find any thing well done, let us return the glory to Thee, our God, for Thy hand sows the good seed, and Thy blessing only gives the increase; let us, at least once a day, [illegible] our souls to God and man, that we may sleep in charity with all the world, and retire to our beds with a quiet conscience, full of faith and hope, relying on the merits and sufferings of our blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ the Righteous. Amen.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VIII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord God, Heavenly Father, Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, have mercy upon the sinful, ignorant beings, who presume to kneel before Thee, to implore Thy pardon, and to entreat Thy continued goodness for mercy and protection. We cannot assure ourselves of one hour's quiet possession of the comforts that surrounds us. What are we, then, but helpless, wretched creatures, though the loving-kindness of our blessed Saviour assures us, that the very hairs of our head are all numbered; and encourages us to look up to Him as the author and finisher of our faith. In humble confidence, then, let us put our whole trust in God, and love Him, and serve Him, as we ought to do. Let not the things of this world allure us from the thoughts of the eternal mansions of bliss and security, where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, and where the spirits of the just shall be made perfect. Let us not toil for the short-lived pleasures of this earthly passage to our heavenly inheritance; we can at most but obtain uncertain riches, precarious health, and the gratifications of the world, the flesh, and the devil! O Lord God, assist our endeavours to lead a Christian life. Comfort us with Thy good Spirit to cheer our infirmities. Bless us with Thy protection, and grant that we may exert our utmost strength to combat every

tendency

tendency to whatever is evil and offensive to Thee, that we may guide our thoughts, words, and works, according to Thy will and commandments. Unite this family in all godliness. To each of us, Thy mercies, and our situations and trials, are differently dispensed; but Thy Holy Gospel is given as the guide and rule of all our duties: let, then, our several talents be properly employed, and let us not content ourselves with avoiding to do evil, let us learn to do good. O give us understanding to make a right use of the Scriptures; and grant us health, peace, and [illegible] of the comforts of this life, as Thou seest to be fit for each of us. Give us the comfortable hope of acceptance with Thee, that we may go on our way rejoicing. We [illegible] ourselves, and all that is our's, into Thy fatherly care and protection this night. O Lord, bless us, and forgive us our sins! O God of our salvation, have mercy upon us! Christ have mercy upon us! Lord have mercy upon us!

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## IX.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord, our God, infinitely good, and infinitely great, Thy glory is above all our thoughts; and Thy mercy is over all Thy works. We have cause to adore and admire, to bless and praise Thee, for those blessings which, in so large a measure, Thou hast been pleased to vouchsafe to us. We are daily the objects of Thy bounty, and continue still the living monuments of Thy goodness. Where thy glorious perfections check and forbid our approaches, Thy gracious attributes invite and encourage our applications to Thee, and embolden us to look up, as to our heavenly Father, through Christ Jesus. We confess our many and great sins. Thou didst create us, O Lord, after Thine own image, in a holy and happy state; but we have disobeyed Thy laws, and made ourselves vile and miserable; averse to good, prone to evil, and so very full of provocation, that it is alone owing to Thy wonderful patience and loving-kindness, that Thou hast not cut us off in our sins, and given us up to final despair of Thy mercy. But Thou hast given us salvation, through the merits of Thy Son, our Saviour; that whosoever believes in Him, and repent of their sins, should not perish, but obtain pardon and everlasting happiness, for His sake, in the life to come. O Lord, give us that true repentance, and that firm faith,

faith, that we may believe and repent to the saving of our souls. Make Thy ways plain before us, that we may be thoroughly convinced of their goodness and excellence, and that we may resolutely give up ourselves to Thy service all the days of our life. Be gracious and favourable, O Lord, to Thy Christian servants in all nations, and prosper all their pious designs, that all may have cause to say, "The Lord be magnified who hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servants." Bless our King whom Thou hast put in authority over us. Bless all the faithful Ministers of Thy Church, and all who rule over us, according to Thy holy will and ordinance. Comfort the suffering children of affliction; have pity on the calamities of Thy afflicted ones. O Lord God, hear their sighs, and turn their hearts to rest only on Thee, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Restore all the unhappy to peace of mind; and let all human beings benefit by the prayers of Thy Church, offered up throughout all the Christian world. Glory, and honour, and power, be unto God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## X.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord, let our prayers be set forth in Thy sight, as the incense; and the lifting up of our hands, be as an evening sacrifice. In Thee hath been our trust all the day long; and under the shadow of Thy wings shall be our refuge day and night for ever. O Thou, the brightness of eternity! by whose providence the day and the night were created, and are governed, and who hast made the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise Thee, mercifully vouchsafe to let the light of Thy countenance shine upon us, with the blessed beams of Thy goodness and mercy; that neither the prince of darkness may have any power over us, nor the works of darkness overwhelm us; but that, by the power of Thy Almighty protection, we may be defended both in body and soul, from all the perils and dangers of this night. Make us ever to remember that darkness hideth nothing from Thee: for to Thee, the night shineth as clear as the day; to Thee, darkness and light are both alike. We have sinned before Thee, O Lord, our God, and have done much evil in Thy sight; our sins are many in number, of many kinds, and our minds are too weak and selfish to discover half the offences, which at many times, and in many places, we have committed against Thy holy laws, at the risk of Thy eternal wrath. O Lord, heavenly Father!

Father! look upon us in mercy through the atonement of our blessed Redeemer, who came into the world to save sinners; for his sake, forgive us our sins, and grant us truly penitent hearts, that, by Thy divine grace, we may repent and amend our lives, and study to serve Thee as we ought to do. We praise Thy holy name for all the blessings we have enjoyed this day. Make us ever mindful of the comforts bestowed on ourselves, and ever ready to supply the wants of others. Send into our hearts that most excellent gift of Christian charity, that we may live among our fellow-creatures in the bonds of peace, and good will to all, calling our own ways to remembrance, particularly when we offer up our prayers in public or in private. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and grant us Thy peace all the days of our life, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XI.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, hear us, sinful as we are, that in the multitude of Thy mercies, we may come into Thy presence, to make our prayers and supplications before Thee. O cast us not away from Thy presence, nor take Thy Holy Spirit from us; but let the assistance of Thy grace help our infirmities, and make our prayers and praises acceptable before Thee. To whom can we look for every blessing but to Thee alone, our Lord, and our God; and what is there on earth we can desire in comparison of Thy favour. It is in Thee we live, and move, and have our being. If Thou take away our breath, we die, and return again to our dust, and all our thoughts perish. If Thou but hide Thy face, a weight of sin and trouble does easily beset us; for our adversary, the devil, goeth about seeking whom he may devour: and if Thou art angry, O Lord, Thy Holy Spirit leaves us to the evil of our own hearts. But in Thee, O heavenly Father, is our hope; Thou art our strength, and our confidence, and our merciful God. O be Thou ever our help in all our trials and adversities; support and guide us in Thy holy laws, which war against the sinful thoughts of our minds; and, through Thy strength, make us conquerors over all temptations. Let no sin get the dominion

dominion over us, and teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom; and so redeem our lost time, that we may make our calling and election sure. Let us pray to Thee, the God of our salvation, and because the days are evil, may we be diligent and active in this life, in the performance of our Christian duty; that we may hope to die in the Lord, and be with Christ for ever. Be merciful to all Thy people: let Thy light and Thy truth shine before men, that they may be zealous of good works. Teach us to love and fear Thee, and do Thou delight to dwell in our hearts, and teach us how to live so as to please our God. Let virtue and piety, and whatever is praise-worthy and of good report, flourish and abound in this nation; and make us a willing and obedient people, according to Thy holy word and commandment. Forgive, we pray Thee, all our sins of this day, and protect us this night; refresh our bodies with sleep, and defend our souls from sin. Secure all that belongs to us from danger, through the mercies of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, and, in Jesus Christ, our most merciful and gracious Father, we, Thy sinful and unworthy creatures, do here most humbly present ourselves before Thee this evening, to confess our sins, and to beg Thy forgiveness. We acknowledge Thine infinite mercies, and we bewail our abuses of them. We confess, O Lord, that we are wicked and defiled in our very nature, having a backwardness to all good, and a great readiness and inclination to all evil. And besides the wicked tendency of our nature, we have too frequently made ourselves worse by indulging actual sin, and practising wicked worldly customs. Thou hast given us a pure law, which is holy, just, and good, but we have broken this law from day to day; we have slighted and abused the riches of Thy grace discovered in the Gospel of Christ, and have not suffered Thy goodness to lead us to repentance; for we oppose our sinful wills to the grace of Thy good Spirit, working in our hearts for the salvation of our souls. O Lord, what can we expect, having done these things, but to be utterly forsaken of Thee; for, alas, that is the due reward of our sins. But, O Thou merciful preserver of men, who freely pardonest all who truly repent, and who givest repentance to all that ask, and invitest all to ask by promising to give,

O give

O give us, we beseech Thee, deep and hearty repentance, a sincere contrition, a true sorrow for, and a perfect hatred of, our sins, with a firm resolution to forsake them. O Lord, our God, according to Thy goodness, let Thine anger be turned away from us; look upon us in Thy Son, our blessed Saviour, and, for the merits of his sufferings, pardon our offences; forgive our sins of weakness and surprise, our sins of wilfulness and deliberation, all our known sins, and the secret sins of our hearts and lives. We are not sufficient of ourselves to avoid evil or to perform good, enable us by Thy Holy Spirit to overcome our corrupt inclinations, and to bring both soul and body under the government of reason and religion. Endue us with fervent devotion to Thee, our Creator and Redeemer, and with upright, just, and charitable hearts to our neighbours. Protect and defend us, O Lord, this night from all danger; and, when we awake in the morning, help us to employ our renewed strength to Thy glory and service, through Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

*Our Father*, &c. &c.

## XIII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

We offer Thee, O Lord, our evening sacrifice, the sacrifice of a troubled spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, which Thou hast promised not to despise. Have mercy upon us, O God, after Thy great goodness, and, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, do away our offences; let Thy unspeakable goodness free us from the sins we have committed, and deliver us from the punishment we have deserved. Graciously look upon our infirmities in flesh and in spirit; cleanse and save us from our wickedness, and give us grace with pure hearts and minds to follow Thee, the only God. Make us to remember Thee on our bed, and to think on Thee when we awaken; to commune with Thee in our hearts during the day, and to search out our spirits, and compose them to Thy service, that we may be occupied in Thy word. Thou hast preserved us from the dangers of the day past; Thou hast been our support from our birth to this time, and now under the shadow of Thy wings, let us pass through the dangers and darkness of this night in comfort and peace. Let not our sleep be intemperate, but sufficient to relieve and maintain nature, and whatever days Thou shalt be pleased to add to our lives, let them all be spent and devoted to Thy service, and the advancement of Thy honour and glory. Teach us to do good to all, according to

our power, without respect of persons, to relieve and assist our neighbours in their bodily wants and spiritual concerns; the love of God includes the love of our neighbour, and He is pleased to consider the good we do to his servants as done to Himself. We pray Thee to give us hearts ready to forgive an injury, and to bear it patiently for Christ's sake. And, O Thou Creator and Preserver of mankind, have mercy upon all sorts and conditions of men; bless the members of Thy Church wherever dispersed upon the face of all the world. Bless us, and pardon our sins. Bless all our relations, friends, and benefactors, turn the hearts of our enemies, that we may all have the love of God abiding in us; and grant us mercy in the dreadful day of judgment, through the mediation and satisfaction of Thy blessed Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, be all honour, praise, and thanksgiving, in all the Churches of Thy faithful people for ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XIV.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Almighty God, who art always more ready to hear, than we to pray, and to give us more than we know how to ask, or ever can deserve, accept, we pray Thee, our united thanksgivings for the mercies Thou hast this day bestowed upon us all. We praise Thee for the glad tidings of the Gospel, inviting us to repent of our sins, and to make our peace with Thee. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to add this one more blessing to all Thy mercies; that thou wouldst grant us hearts truly sensible of our sins and infirmities. Enable us to try our actions by the sacred laws of Thy Holy Gospel, and search out every secret sin, judging ourselves, that we be not judged of the Lord, whose commandments are our sure guide to life eternal in heaven. Let not the good word of Thy grace enter our hearts, as it were, among thorns and briars, for then will the preaching of Thy faithful Ministers rise in judgment against us; but let us, in pureness of mind, receive instruction, and increase in every good work an hundred fold, that the light of the Gospel may shine around, clearly shewing us what we ought to do, and what we ought to avoid. Grant, O Lord, that we may make it our business so to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, that we may be blessed among Thy faithful servants in the great day

day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Remove from us all carelessness, and coldness, and inattention, in hearing or reading Thy Holy Word; and grant us Thy mercy and pardon for the sins, impieties, and offences, which we have this day added to our great account of transgressions. Let the merits of Thy Son hide us from Thy vengeance, and cover us in the day of Thy wrath. Lord, lift Thou up the light of Thy countenance upon us, and let all that put their trust in Thee rejoice. Good Lord, let the same providence that has protected us this day, be our defence through this night; and the same goodness which supported us then, be our sanctuary now; that we may live to praise Thee while on earth, and be prepared, when called upon, to give our final account, when the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and this mortal shall put on immortality. In that awful day, O Christ, save us! for in Thee only have we righteousness and strength, salvation belongeth to the Lord, and we trust in the fullness of the blessings of the Gospel. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XV.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O most gracious God, who art infinite in all perfections, all Thy works are wonderful, and declare Thy almighty power, wisdom, and goodness. Thy law is holy, just, and good, and both our duty and interest should engage us to perform it. But, O Lord, we confess with shame and confusion of face, that we have not duly regarded the many obligations we are under to love and fear Thee, and obey Thy commandments. We have too eagerly followed the corrupt customs and wicked practices of this world. We have often been void of thought and spirit in our religious exercises, deceiving ourselves with mere shadows of piety and devotion, and with a form of godliness instead of the life and power of it. Proneness to evil follows us. We have been very careless and negligent in the knowledge and practice of our duty, and our whole life has so deviated from our Christian profession, that we are not able to give any tolerable account of our time, or of the various methods which Thy grace and goodness has afforded for our reformation. O God, we earnestly implore the forgiveness of our sins, and the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to conquer and subdue them, and make us walk more circumspectly for the future. Endue us with the true knowledge of Thy will, and assist us in the constant practice of it. In-

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crease in us that faith which purifieth the heart, and overcometh the world, the flesh, and the devil. Sanctify all the dispensations of Thy providence; make us humble in adversity, and thankful and contented in every situation of life. O may we ever mind the one thing needful, and, in the first place, seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Enable us to live in a constant preparation for death and judgment, that we may be always ready for our last and great conflict with the powers of darkness. O God, afford us, we beseech Thee, at that important hour, the light of Thy reconciled countenance, that we may have in view the bright prospect of Thy immortal glory in Thy heavenly kingdom. O eternal God, all Thy works praise Thee, and Thou delightest in doing good to all Thy creatures. We bless and praise Thee, and we ought to love and fear Thee, to worship and serve Thee evermore. We magnify Thy great name, for affording us at this time, all that is necessary for the support of life; and as Thou hast defended us from accidents this day, preserve us also, we pray Thee, in health and safety this night, if it be Thy holy will, for the love of Thy dear Son, our most blessed Redeemer and Advocate, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XVI.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O HOLY, blessed, and glorious Trinity, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners; let our prayers and supplications be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. O Almighty God, and Gracious Father, who hast established the heavens and the earth in a wonderful order, for the comfort and refreshment of mankind, we make our humble prayer to Thy Divine Majesty, begging of Thee mercy and protection this night, and at all times. O Lord, pardon our sins, our vain thoughts, light and rash words, and our irregular actions, all that we have done amiss this day, or at any time before; be reconciled to us, most merciful Father, for the sake of Thy dear Son. Behold, O God, our souls are troubled at the remembrance of our many sins and frailties, and of our weakness in resisting temptations of many kinds. O Lord God of mercy, we earnestly beseech Thee, to assist us with Thy Holy Spirit, that we may mortify our sinful inclinations, vain wishes, and check every disorderly passion, that we may wholly dedicate ourselves to Thy service, and to the practice of a holy and Christian life. Convince us truly, O Lord, of the great folly and danger of sin; teach us ever to value Thy love above all things, and to esteem Thy favour more than life itself. Grant that we may

pass

pass through this world in peace, innocence, and safety, and enable us to resist our great adversary the devil, who is daily lying in wait to deceive us. Suffer us not, O merciful God, to be led away by the vain and foolish customs of this world, nor seduced from our duty by the company and example of the wicked. Grant that we may make Thy Holy Gospel the rule of our actions; and let it be our constant and zealous endeavour to please Thee in all things, and faithfully discharge our duty in the several ranks and stations wherein Thy providence has placed us. Make us duly mindful that Thou art every where present, and knowest our most secret thoughts; that we may never dare to do any thing which Thou hast forbid; and so may give a good account at the great day of the Lord Jesus. O fit and prepare us for that solemn time by a virtuous and good life on earth, that, when we appear before the Judge of all the world, we may be found in the number of those happy souls, whom he shall then pronounce blessed. Grant this, O Father of heaven, for Christ's sake, our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XVII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord most high, the Holy One, who inhabitest eternity, who only hast immortality, and art most blessed in Thy own incomprehensible perfections, Thou art to be feared and loved, to be worshipped and praised, by us, and all creatures that have any knowledge. How great, how mighty, how wise and merciful art Thou! All Thy works praise Thee, O Lord; and we more especially ought to bless Thee, that Thou hast made us to acknowledge Thy excellencies, which are far above our highest thoughts. We bless Thee for Thy marvellous love towards us, through Christ Jesus, who visited us in great humility, took our nature upon Him, and abode among men, to assure us of Thy good will, notwithstanding our many offences. By his exceeding great and precious promises, He did invite our approach, and encourage our obedience, to Thee. O blessed Lord Jesus, by Thine agony and bloody sweat; by Thy cross and passion; by Thy precious death and burial; by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, Thou hast secured to us life everlasting. Thou hast obtained pardon and peace for all true believers, who turn from their iniquities, and seek their God. Blessed be Thy goodness, O God, for that great consolation; and that Thou hast shown us the way to it, by the doctrine

doctrine and example of our Saviour; and that Thou hast assured us of the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, to enable us to follow after Him to that glory which he possesses. Blessed be Thy goodness, that we have so often felt our minds inspired with good thoughts, and O give us grace to encourage them. Can we do less than offer up again our hearts to Thee, to be governed by Thy blessed will, and not by our own wills; that so we may be every day more and more prepared for that happy state of immortal blessedness in Thy presence, where there is fulness of joy for ever and ever. O God, purify our minds, and regulate all our feelings, that we may be filled with constant devotion towards Thee, our Creator, and most merciful Redeemer, and that we may behave ourselves suitably to the dignity of our Holy Religion. Compose our spirits to a quiet and steady dependence on Thy good providence: protect us, we beseech Thee, and all our friends, this night: grant us quiet and undisturbed rest, and awaken us in the morning, with good thoughts in our hearts, that the words of our Saviour may abide in us. *Amen.*

*Our Father*, &c. &c.

## XVIII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O MOST glorious God, who dwellest in that light unto which no mortal eye can approach, and by whose providence the day and the night were made; Thou by whose word all things were created, look down in mercy on Thine unworthy creatures, and let the light of Thy countenance shine upon us. We desire to return Thee our thankful acknowledgments for all Thy mercies, temporal and spiritual. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but, above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world, by our Lord Jesus Christ. We bless Thee for His manifestation in the flesh; for the charitable testimonials which He gave of His love to mankind, in the whole course of His blessed life; for His astonishing grace in submitting Himself to die for our sins; for His glorious resurrection and ascension to heaven; for sending the Holy Ghost to enlighten our minds with the knowledge of Thy will, and to shed abroad Thy love in our hearts; lastly, for His intercession for lost sinners, who, through His merits, are allowed to hope for pardon and peace. Inspire us, O Lord, with holy thoughts, devout affections, and firm faith. We bless and praise Thee for all the means of grace, and for the hope of glory; we beseech Thee give us a due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful, and

that

that our lives may be devoted to Thy service. Thy all-seeing eye, O God, looks down to this lower world, and beholds all the ways of the children of men. Thou seest our thoughts, and the ends we aim at in our designs. All the day long Thou seest how we spend our time, and the darkest night conceals us not from Thee. Enable us to resign ourselves wholly to Thy disposal, and to serve Thee with all the powers of our souls and bodies, which is our reasonable service, and which do Thou accept for Christ's sake. Short and uncertain are the enjoyments of this life. O Lord God, give us a lively sense of Thy bounty towards us, in every comfort we possess; send down Thy powerful grace to fortify us against the allurements of this world, lest they betray us to the ruin of our souls. Deliver us, O Lord, from asking of Thee, what we cannot receive without danger to our eternal welfare. Pardon the sins and negligences of this day; and grant us Thy blessing and protection this night. Defend us sleeping and waking, that we may live in Thy fear, and die in Thy favour, and be raised by Thy power to life everlasting, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XIX.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O MOST holy, glorious, and eternal Lord God, we, Thy creatures, fall down before Thee, in the deepest humility of our souls, to worship Thee, and to acknowledge how infinitely we are bound to Thee, for the innumerable blessings and favours Thou hast conferred on us, out of Thy mere bounty and goodness. We owe our lives, and all our comforts, to Thee alone, together with all our hopes in this world and hereafter. Blessed, for ever blessed be Thy merciful kindness, for giving us such glorious hopes, by the Lord Jesus Christ, by His holy life and doctrine, by His death and resurrection, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost to be a witness of His majesty and glory. Pardon, we most humbly beseech Thee, all our past neglects of Thee, our insensibleness of Thy mercy, our carelessness of Thy benefits, our inconstancy, and our disobedience. Pardon us particularly, O Lord, in whatever we have done amiss this day, by acting contrary to those holy purposes and resolutions, which we are bound as Christians to perform. Vouchsafe to us the assistance of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may fulfil our engagements towards Thee for the time to come, with increased zeal, and with more steady and cheerful obedience to Thy Divine Majesty. Awaken our minds to more lively feelings of gratitude, and more frequent

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and serious reflections, upon Thy undeserved and bountiful mercies towards us. Touch our hearts with such a sense of duty towards our Lord and Saviour, that we may glory in the name of Christians, and ever fix our thoughts upon our blessed Master, admiring his unspotted life, his sacred doctrine, and his gracious promises; earnestly endeavouring to follow and live by his precepts, and resting all hopes of salvation upon His merits and mediation. As for all the things of this life, we most heartily refer ourselves to Thy fatherly wisdom and goodness, trusting that Thou wilt order for us, that which is most conducive to our eternal well-being: but as we are in mercy permitted to make known our requests to Thee in prayer and supplication, now that we are going to our repose, keep us, we pray Thee, and all belonging to us, in safety, this night: refresh our wearied spirits with comfortable rest and sleep; and, in the morning, direct our thoughts again to Thee, our heavenly Protector and Preserver, that we may employ ourselves to Thy honour and glory, through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XX.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Almighty God, without whose favour and pleasure, our days are but a shadow, and our years vanity, in the multitude of Thy mercies look down upon us, who have no abiding place here below. We doat too much upon earthly trifles which soon pass away, and frequently our greatest happiness produces in the end vexation of spirit. At thy right-hand, O Lord, there are pleasures for evermore, and in Thy presence there is fulness of joy, for all who truly love and fear Thee. Therefore, we pray Thee, wean our hearts from the inordinate love of this world, and guide our affections to the things above, that we may lay up treasure in heaven, where moth and rust doth not corrupt; where thieves do not break through, nor steal; where there is no more death, nor pain, or grief. For we know that our Redeemer liveth, and though worms destroy this body, yet in our flesh shall we see God. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out: therefore, O Lord God, enable us by Thy Holy Spirit, to take heed to our ways, that we may serve the Lord, all the days of our lives, in faith and hope, with humility and stedfast obedience to Thy word and commandments. Teach us ever to remember our latter end, and be always mindful of the great account we must give of the deeds done

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in the world. Let not our many sins prevent Thy mercies towards us. Let not our many follies or infirmities provoke Thy wrath and indignation against us. Let Thy forbearance win us to amendment, and Thy goodness lead us to sincere repentance, with such a sense of our transgressions, that, through the merits of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, we may be restored to Thy favour, and obtain Thy pardon, and the precious hopes of peace and joy for all eternity. O Lord, let Thy grace abound in us, and strengthen us, through Christ, that we may attain to the resurrection of the just. O Lord, we bless Thee, for all the mercies conferred on us this day; for the evils we have escaped, and the comforts we have received; and for all the mercies Thou hast bestowed on our friends and relations. We devoutly thank Thee, and earnestly pray, that we, and all belonging to us, may spend our time in peace and quietness, to Thy honour and glory in this world; and that we may join Thy heavenly servants and saints, in the everlasting mansions of bliss prepared for the faithful. Hear our prayers, O Lord God, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXI.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O MOST gracious God, who daily multipliest upon us Thy mercies, notwithstanding we every day renew our provocations, accept, we beseech Thee, our most humble and hearty thanks for Thine unspeakable kindness to us Thy unworthy servants. Blessed be Thy goodness, which has this day supplied us with food, and necessary comforts for health and happiness. Adored be Thy loving-kindness towards us, for the assistance of Thy Spirit in the duties of this day; and for not cutting us off in any act of sin which we have committed against Thy divine laws. Grant us a due sense of these benefits, and a hearty and earnest sorrow for having offended so gracious a God, to whose free mercy and bounty we stand indebted for all we have, or hope to enjoy. Remember not against us our past iniquities, by which we have dishonoured our Christian profession: remember not our frequent breaches of our baptismal vows; but mercifully forgive and heal our souls. Let Thy grace, and the blessed influences of Thy Holy Spirit, defend us from all temptations to evil for the time to come. Our full purpose, O Lord, is to endeavour after a thorough amendment of our lives, and Thou hast promised to assist our endeavours after godliness; O let Thine arm be our almighty aid, so shall we daily increase in righteous-

ness

ness and holiness of living. Give all men grace to repent of their sins, and to become Thy faithful servants. Let all Christians live up to the laws of the religion they profess. Bless these kingdoms wherein we dwell; save and defend Thy Church from all false doctrine, and Thy servant, our King, from treason. Give to the rich and prosperous, temperance and charity: to the poor and needy, patience and content: to the afflicted, O Lord, give resignation, and a lively conviction of Thy wisdom and mercy. Grant that we may all remember that we are candidates for eternity, and that, according as we behave ourselves, here in this state of probation, so will our lot and portion be happy or miserable for ever. Preserve all our relations and friends, in their souls and bodies; keep us under the defence and care of Thy good providence this night; make our sleep refreshing, and grant us health and strength to fit us for the duties of to-morrow. O Lord, prepare us all for our great change, that death may not surprise us unawares; but that living a good life, we may be happy in our death, and have a well grounded comfort and hope in Thee. Hear these our prayers, O merciful Father, for the sake of Thy Son, our only Advocate and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O ETERNAL GOD, before whom all things are open, and all creation at the same moment visible, who knowest our thoughts, even before they are formed, and clearly seest all our intentions and secret inclinations, either to do evil, or to glorify Thy holy name, make us sincerely penitent for what we have done amiss; and ever on our guard to consider all our actions as done in Thy sight. Let us pray for Thy Holy Spirit, to enable us before we sleep to examine our conduct during this past day. O Lord God, lighten the burden of our sins as we repent of them, and blot out our iniquities: strengthen our pious resolutions, that, in all our ways, we may acknowledge the Lord Jesus, as the guide of our lives, and the hope of our salvation. Let thy blessed Spirit influence, direct, and sanctify, all our thoughts, that no secret guilt may harbour in our hearts; but that all our intentions and purposes may be regulated by Thy law and ordinances. Suffer us not to be tempted above what we are able to bear; but, with the temptation, grant us to find a way to escape the snare. Kindle in our souls the most sincere and holy adoration; raise in our hearts the highest pitch of gratitude, for all Thy goodness to us; and, whilst we have a being, teach us to praise Thee with joyful lips. Let Thy fatherly

fatherly loving-kindness supply all our defects, and Thy mercy help our infirmities. Make us masters over all our passions. May the severest dispensations of Thy providence never shake our faith and trust in Thy divine mercy and wisdom. For the Lord will shew mercy unto thousands in them that love Him, and keep His commandments. O Lord, protect and defend Thy Church in these kingdoms. Let not our sins provoke Thee to take Thy Gospel from us; but may it spread, and be the guide of Thy people, and the fixed rule of their conduct. Let mercy and truth meet together, and piety and righteousness distinguish all who profess to call themselves Christians; that the light of Thy truth may shine before men, and all the world unite to laud and magnify Thy holy name. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory, O Lord most high. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXIII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

Most great and glorious Lord God, we prostrate ourselves before Thee, under a deep sense of our own unworthiness. We confess, O Lord, that we have sinned against Thy holy commandments, and that our transgressions deserve thy severest visitations. We could not dare to come before Thee, Thou God of purity and truth; we could not presume to lift up our eyes to Thy throne above the heavens, but that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ sits at the right-hand of Thy Divine Majesty, ever to make intercession for the sins of the whole world! In this state of our earthly nature, we cannot comprehend the wonderful Being, who created the whole world by the mighty power of His holy word! But, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer, Thou hast promised pardon and peace to all who, with truly penitent hearts, repent them of their evil ways, earnestly endeavouring to lead better lives for the time to come. In deep humility, in faith, and hope, we pray Thee to bless us with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may serve Thee truly all the days of our lives. Forgive us the sin of enquiring into the divine secrets of Thy heavenly kingdom, which Thou hast been pleased to conceal from the wisest and most learned human beings since time began, that man may live by faith alone. Eye hath not seen,

nor

nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive the glory of the God of all eternity. There was no beginning, and there will be no end of Thy power, O Lord God of mercy and truth. Let us adore and praise Thy holy name, with all the power of our mind; and let every action tend to Thy glory: may we have awful thoughts of Thee, and never mention Thy venerable name, but on just and devout occasions. Let us ever bless Thee, for the means of salvation offered in Thy sacred word, and for the light of the Gospel, which Thy Son, our Saviour, has ordained to be preached in all the world, that all may hear the words of eternal life. Grant that we may earnestly try to guide our thoughts, words, and works, by these holy precepts, that we may be partakers of Thy blessed promises. Have pity upon us, O Lord, and evermore defend and protect us, according to our several necessities. Keep us all in safety this night, we pray Thee, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXIV.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord God Almighty, the gracious Author and Governor of all things in heaven and in earth, we assemble ourselves this evening, to renew our humble petitions to Thy throne of mercy; to thank Thee for all the blessings and comforts we have enjoyed this day; and earnestly to implore Thy pardon, for all the offences we may have committed, as well as for our many negligences in our duty to Thee. O that we should ever be so forgetful of Thy constant presence, as to idle away in such vain pursuits, the greatest part of the time allotted for this life of probation. Here, on our knees, before Thee, O Lord, how do we dare to look back on the usual distribution of our daily labours. We have been eager in the pursuit of our temporal interests, and often engaged in the pleasures and vanities of this world, as if there was no heaven to be expected! no hell to fear! no soul to be saved! no God to be feared, or served! O Lord God, we cannot reflect on our ways one moment, without a thorough conviction of our folly and wickedness: Thy bounty, day by day, is unwearied; and our ingratitude, day by day, is evident in our own eyes. O Lord, let each of us look into our own hearts, and fervently exclaim, "What shall we do to be saved!" But, O Lord God, Thou hast given us the words of eternal

eternal life in Thy Holy Gospel, and what can we say to excuse ourselves from following its plain and easy commands? We can only again and again repeat our prayers for pardon, and for Thy blessing and good spirit, to pursue the path of peace and virtue which leads to heaven. O Lord God, give us steadfast faith in Thy promises, and firm resolves to persevere in withstanding, both the evil inclinations of our deceitful hearts, and the wicked insinuations of our spiritual enemy, who is ever on the watch to take advantage of our weakness, and of the vanity of our worldly wishes. Purify our souls from the dross which is now so dear to us, and let us see how trifling is every carnal affection, that we may raise our hopes to higher and more lasting joys, in thy eternal mansions of bliss and security. To this happy state, let us all aspire, and so live in the practice of our duties on earth, that when we depart this life, we may be with Christ for ever. Grant us, O Lord, health of body, and peace of mind; guard us sleeping, and guide us waking, for the love of our dear Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXV.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O FATHER of mercies, who art full of compassion, and of great goodness, in mercy hear us; and, for the sake of Thy Son Jesus Christ, accept our prayers and praises, for all the mercies of this day. Make us sharers in that remission of sins, which our blessed Saviour so dearly purchased; let His death atone for us; and let Thy goodness lead us to repentance. From His example, teach us, O Lord, so to follow His footsteps, that we may obey His holy precepts, to our own eternal salvation. Oh, do Thou be pleased to make us Thy people, and, according to Thy great goodness, have mercy upon us, and bless us. We do confess, O Lord, that we have sinned against heaven, and before Thee, and are no more worthy to be called the children of God. There dwells no goodness in us; sin is ever present with us, and our deeds are evil continually. But the power of Thy grace is able to subdue all things to Thyself; do Thou work in our hearts, to think, and to do Thy own good pleasure. Lord, not our will, but Thine be done. Let Thy ways be known upon earth; Thy saving health unto all nations. Reveal Thy Gospel over all the world, that all mankind may praise and fear Thy holy name. Bless all Thy people, who have the Lord for their God. Comfort those that mourn, and heal all that are sick; support

and

and relieve the poor, and those who are distressed in mind, body, or estate. Direct, with Thy good Spirit, all who are in authority, and let justice and wisdom guide their minds and actions. Keep all Thy people mindful of the great account the rich and the poor must one day give, when the Lord cometh to judge every man according to his works. O fit us more and more to stand before Thy Judgment-seat, and perfect us in the way of righteousness. Bless this family, O our Father, who commend our souls and bodies into Thy protection this night; continue us still in the land of the living, and let it not be laid to our charge, that Thou gavest us time to repent, and we repented not. Remember not against us the transgressions of this day, nor of our past lives. Pardon, O Lord, and heal our souls, and accept our imperfect repentance, and wandering petitions, for His sake, who sits at Thy right-hand, ever to make intercession for repentant sinners. To whom, with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all worship, honour, and glory for ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXVI.

## EVENING PRAYER.

O God, our Creator and Preserver, whose goodness is as great as Thy power, graciously accept of the worship of a family, whom Thou hast this day preserved from many evils, and blessed with many comforts. May we ever be ready and willing to perform this reasonable service, and never fail to ask Thy blessing and protection night and morning. Let us not overlook the use we should make of all the faculties Thou hast bestowed upon us; and suffer us not to forget, that we are accountable beings, placed in a state of trial, to fit us for a world of endless duration. The road to salvation lies before us. May we never lose sight of the high prize of our Christian calling; but press forward with steady purpose to obey Thy Holy Will. We acknowledge, most good and gracious God, our dependence on Thee: O supply our hearts with devotion, and grace to render Thee acceptable homage and service. We most thankfully declare the obligations we are daily laid under to Thee, our heavenly Father; and we intreat Thee to accept our prayers and praises, imperfect as they are, for Thy great love to us unworthy sinners. Grant, O Lord, that we may set a just value on religious knowledge, and diligently seek after that instruction which we stand in need of, as creatures passing through life to eternity. May we seriously consider,

consider, that the present time is a season of preparation for futurity. O continue this season to us a little longer; and let us not depart till we have discovered the good and the right way, which leads to peace, and to heaven. May Thy Holy Word be our directory through life; our companion in solitude; our solace in affliction; and our comfort in the hour of death, and at the day of judgment. To Thee, most merciful God, we commend ourselves this night; for we know of no effectual security, but in the care of Thy divine providence. Except Thou keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. We look to Thee, O Lord, for protection from dangers, against which we may endeavour to guard; but, after all we can do for our security, there will remain many evils to which we are exposed, and from which only our God can preserve us. O blessed Lord, how helpless a creature is man without Thee; but if we commit our ways unto Thee, O God, Thou wilt direct our paths; for Thou feedest Thy flock like a shepherd, and Thou hast the words of eternal life. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, now, and for ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXVII.

### EVENING PRAYER.

O most blessed for evermore, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, blessed be Thy holy name, that we still live to praise Thee. Thou renewest Thy favours to us continually, and art still pouring upon us innumerable benefits. Thou givest us leave to call Thee, Father, and to make known our requests to Thee, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. We prostrate ourselves before Thee this evening, to acknowledge Thy goodness in creating us, and giving us such various and continual good things: our life, our health, every surrounding comfort, and every good inclination that arises in our mind, all are Thy gifts. We praise and bless Thy holy name, for Thy great goodness to us, and all Thy creatures, who daily live upon Thy bounteous allowance. The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their food in due season. Thou diffusest Thy blessings according to our need, and continuest them unsought and unasked, notwithstanding abundance of provocation and high offences from us. Alas, we do not bring forth fruits worthy of the Gospel of Thy grace: we are ungrateful for all Thy undeserved goodness towards us. O may the consideration of Thy fatherly pity, make us devoutly to love Thee, zealously to worship Thee, stedfastly to obey Thee, and to hope and trust in Thee

Thee for ever; that so, by a careful improvement in the knowledge of Thee, our God, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, by whom Thou hast given us all things that pertain to life eternal and godliness, we may hereafter be partakers in those heavenly joys which are promised to the faithful. We have been taught our duty by Thy Holy Gospel; we have likewise frequently and publicly made our Christian professions of gratitude and obedience to Thy Divine Majesty. Help us, O Lord, to testify the truth and honesty of our hearts, by leading lives becoming Thy faithful servants, in all humility, meekness, temperance, charity, and blameless conversation, with such as fear the Lord with a pure heart. Bless our Sovereign; bless our family, our relations, and friends. Comfort the sick, and all distressed persons. Give them an immoveable belief in Thy wise and good providence; to which, give them grace patiently and obediently to resign themselves. Be Thou, O Lord, our defence this night, when our senses are bound up in sleep; and, after the refreshment of repose, raise us in the morning with cheerful minds, and ready wills, to present our renewed petitions to the throne of Thy mercy, in and through our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXVIII.

## EVENING PRAYER.

Most glorious and merciful God, the fountain of all goodness, and of all grace, from whom angels, and men, and all creation, have received whatever good is in them; since all they have, and all they can do, is entirely owing to Thee. We acknowledge the infinite obligations Thou hast laid upon us to love and serve Thee; but, with shame and sorrow, we must confess, that we have not loved Thee, and served Thee, as we ought: nay, we have offended Thee, and dishonoured Thee, most ungratefully, and not served Thee as we might have done, and ought to have done. Alas, we have omitted to perform what Thou hast commanded, and done what Thou hast forbidden. We have broken Thy righteous laws in various ways: in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions. By all the senses of our body, and by the powers of our souls, we have been guilty of numberless transgressions. O Lord God, we have made ourselves out of measure sinful, by a repeated course of these provocations against Thee, notwithstanding Thy calls in every page of the blessed Gospel, and our own vows and repeated purposes of amendment. This very day, a moment's thought will convince us, that we have added some sin to our former guilt. O Lord, what shall we do, whither shall we go for help! Thy divine word informs: "Come unto

unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find." O Lord, we have deserved the rigours of Thy justice: but it is Thy will that all should repent and live. O Lord, look down upon us, for we are unworthy to look up to Thee. Grant us that godly sorrow for our sins which worketh repentance: forgive and put away our offences. Receive us, O merciful Father! and be reconciled to us in the merits of Thy dear Son: for His sake restore us to Thy grace and favour, and establish us with Thy free Spirit. O let Thy good Spirit help us, and be a living principle in our souls, to bring forth universal holiness in our lives and conversation. Teach us the fear of Thee. Let our minds be possessed with an ardent love to Thee, and a holy care to please and obey Thee in all things. We thank Thee for the blessings of this life, which are unspeakably numerous, and which Thy providence heaps on all mankind. O Lord God, let the good gifts of Thy Holy Spirit enable and encourage us in the performance of our duties here, that we may have a lively hope of eternal happiness hereafter: and the same blessings we beg for ourselves, we desire for all mankind; that all may know Thee, and be guided into the way that leads to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour, in whose powerful words we sum up all our wants and petitions.

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXIX.

## EVENING PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, Lord of lords, and King of kings, awaken, we pray Thee, all the powers and faculties of our souls, that we may have a lively sense and due reverence of Thee in our minds, while we present ourselves before Thee in prayer. Put us, we humbly pray Thee, upon all those acts towards Thee, of which Thou hast made us capable; that we may duly regard and honour Thee, who gavest us life; that we may obey and serve Thee, who art our Lord and Master; that we may be thankful to Thee, who art our great and daily Benefactor; that we may adore Thee, who art a being of all possible perfection; that we may believe in Thee, who art most true; that we may trust in Thee, because of Thy gracious promises through Christ. Grant that we may be Thine, with the consent of our minds, as we are Thine, by Thy creation of us, and by Thy maintenance, preservation, and constant providence over us; by the adoption of Thy grace, through Thy Son, our Saviour. Thou art our heavenly Father; so may we be Thine by our voluntary service, that all those faculties and powers, which Thou hast given us, may be devoted to the honour of Thy holy name, in this Thy world of wonderful creation. Thy goodness is over all Thy works; therefore, "let every thing that hath breath

breath praise the Lord." We bless Thee, for the light of Thy glorious Gospel; for the knowledge and sense we have of our duty to Thee; for restraining us by Thy grace, and delivering us from temptations, which otherwise had overcome us. We bless Thee for the comforts of Thy Holy Spirit, in every trial and affliction we have met with. Pardon, O God, our manifold neglects and omissions; and our slight and careless performance of the duties of religion. Pardon us, that we have not served Thee with that sincerity of heart, fervency of spirit, nor with that zeal, diligence, and constancy, which belong to Thy true servants. Help us to govern our spirits, and conduct ourselves in all our ways, that we may lead such lives, as may prepare us safely, at any time, to die. Do good to the whole world. Compassionate the forlorn condition of those, who are lost to themselves, and lost to their God, through ignorance and stupidity, through pride, dissoluteness, and profaneness, or through false worship, idolatry, and atheism. O let the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ break forth, and enlighten the whole world. Bless and protect us, and all our friends and relations; give to them, and to us, and to all men, whatever Thou knowest to be best for us all, in our temporal, spiritual, and eternal welfare, for the sake of our blessed Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## XXX.

## EVENING PRAYER.

LORD of all power and might, the bountiful Giver of all our present comforts; and through whose fatherly mercy we look forward to the enjoyment of a life immortal in Thy heavenly kingdom; we adore and thank Thee, most devoutly, for these Thy great mercies to us, and to all men. Let our souls praise Thee, O Lord, with joyful lips, for the ease and happiness Thou hast bestowed at various times, and in many ways, upon each of us. We are too apt, in all our worldly and heavenly concerns, to feel most acutely the evils and distresses which are unavoidable in our passage through life. O Lord God, enlighten our eyes to behold more clearly Thy numberless instances of wonderful preservation, and of unlooked for blessings, by which we have benefited. But, alas! with unthankful hearts, we have lamented, and perhaps murmured, in a sinful degree, at every trial and affliction we have sustained. O Lord God, pardon our shameful ingratitude, and careless, heedless lives. Grant, O Lord, that we may not continue to live at random, without any aim or design; but that we may proportion our care to the real value of things. Make us sensible of the small value of that which relates only to this world; and, O Thou chiefest good, call off our care from the objects of mere earthly happiness, that we may use this world

as

as only our momentary habitation; remembering that the fashion of it passeth away, and that we are all candidates for eternity, in heavenly mansions of bliss. O Lord God, the hearts of all men are in Thy hand. We pray Thee to guide and govern us; preserve Thy Holy Church and Religion among us, and continue to us the purity of Thy blessed Gospel. Vouchsafe Thy favour and protection to our Sovereign, and to the established government of these kingdoms in Church and State. And forasmuch as without Thee, O God, we are not able to please Thee, mercifully grant, that Thy Holy Spirit may, in all things, rule and direct our hearts. Defeat the malice of the devil and of wicked men; and spread Thy glorious Gospel over the whole world. Bless the labours of all who preach Thy sacred doctrine, that they may turn the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that all the world may be one flock, under one Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ; to whom, with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## I.

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord God, almighty in power, and our most merciful Father in Jesus Christ, we, Thy unworthy servants, meet again on this evening of Thy Holy Sabbath, to offer up our prayers and praises for Thy great mercies vouchsafed to us all. We have rebelled against Thee, O Lord, and have not obeyed Thy written law. O enter not into judgment with Thy servants, for unto our God belong mercies and forgivenesses. We have followed too much the devices of our own hearts, and have done the things we ought not to have done; and left undone those duties, which we all know it is our bounden duty to perform. Wherefore, we humbly beseech Thee, O Father, to give us true repentance, and Thy Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be more pure and holy. O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare Thou them who confess their faults: restore Thou them that are penitent. Pardon, O Lord, our numberless transgressions; be merciful to us, and bless us; and shew the light of Thy countenance upon us, and grant us Thy salvation. We are, indeed, tied and bound by the chain of our sins; but let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us, for the honour of our blessed Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. O Lord, we humbly pray Thee, to behold with pity, all sorts and conditions of men, that Thou wouldst

wouldst make Thy ways known to all nations, and Thy blessed Gospel to be spread, and enlighten the whole world, till all the kingdoms become the kingdoms of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May all who profess and call themselves Christians, be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that They may hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. We commend to Thy fatherly goodness, all those who are any way afflicted in mind, body, or estate. May it please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience, and the comfort of Thy Holy Spirit, under all their afflictions, which, we pray Thee, to soften or remove, if it seemeth good in Thy sight. We pray Thee, O Lord, to protect this place and nation in which we dwell. Grant that we may all honour and obey the King, and all who are put in authority under him; and that we may order ourselves lowly and reverently to all our betters, to hurt nobody by word or deed, to be true and just in all our dealings, and to bear no malice nor hatred in our hearts. And because the frailty of man, without Thee, cannot but fall, keep us ever, by Thy help, from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

*Our Father*, &c. &c.

## II.

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER.

O most high and holy, blessed and glorious Lord, our God, sanctify our hearts with Thy grace, that we may draw nigh unto Thee in fervent prayer. We worship Thee in the name of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ; through whose mediation, according to Thy gracious appointment, we are permitted to lift up our eyes towards the place where Thine honour dwelleth. How unable are we of ourselves to perform any duties of service, fit to be rendered to Thy heavenly Majesty. By Thy powerful grace enable us so to pray, as to draw down Thy favour and blessing upon us. Pardon, good Lord, all our sins. O forgive us the dulness and distraction in our performance of the duties of this Thy Holy Sabbath, which Thou hast set apart to be employed in piety. And as Thou hast made us sensible of our duty to Thee, and of our own insufficiency to discharge it, in any degree, so as to satisfy even our own consciences, so may Thy Holy Spirit help our infirmities, and assist and increase our abilities for Thy service in the Church, and in our own families. Accept our public prayers, and our private devotions. Thine eye seest into our hearts, if we worship Thee in spirit, and in truth, or draw nigh unto Thee only with our lips. Thou, O great God, canst hear our very thoughts, when we offer up the shortest petition in our busiest

busiest hours. O quicken us, that we may continually offer up such spiritual sacrifice as Thou wilt accept from each of us. But let us never be hasty in our hearts, or rash with our mouths; nor ever forget, that, sinful dust and ashes as we are, we must reverence and address Thy merciful goodness, with the deepest humility, in thought, word, and work. Make us submissive to Thy will in every thing Thou layest upon us, that we may joyfully and cheerfully serve Thee, in whatever situation Thou art pleased to allot to each of us in this life; knowing that the most exalted station, and the lowest situation, are but different modes of trial to prepare our souls for life eternal. Sickness or health, riches or poverty, call on us in different ways to glorify our God, by resignation or activity, by distributing or receiving, we are taught to do Thy will on earth. Heavenly Father, Thy will be done, and grant us Thy Holy Spirit to walk in Thy paths all the days of our life. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## III.

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord most high, who dwellest not in temples made with hands, yet vouchsafest to admit poor mortals to approach Thee in Thy Church, and to worship Thee in Thy house of prayer; O Lord, we pray Thee, to pardon whatever Thou hast seen amiss in our attendance on Thee this day; and to look with compassion on those, who from sickness or necessity, have absented themselves this day from the courts of Thy house. Sanctify to us all those means of grace, of which, through Thy mercy, we have been partakers; and look down from heaven, O Lord, and behold Thy unworthy servants here before Thee. Hearken unto us, our God, and our King, and in mercy forgive the wanderings and imperfections of our devotions. Enable us, this week following, to live agreeably to our prayers and professions, and to those exhortations and instructions which we have received from Thy Holy Word. We praise Thee, O God, for Thy wonderful love to us, in and through Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ, for honouring our nature with so high a glory, as to make us Thy adopted children, and heirs of heaven, through the merits of our gracious Redeemer. Awaken in our minds, we pray Thee, frequent and serious reflections on these Thy great and distinguishing favours towards us. Preserve in our minds a continual sense

of

of Thy presence, that we may fear and love Thee, honour and obey Thee, and esteem it our greatest happiness to practise the divine precepts of our heavenly Master. Teach us seriously to consider, that we came into this world, not to please ourselves, but diligently to perform, and sincerely obey, Thy holy will, set forth in the Gospel of Christ. Affect us deeply with the important truth, that, as this world is only a state of trial and probation, we must not expect any lasting satisfaction in it. Enable us, therefore, by Thy grace, to persevere in a steady course of virtue and piety, that we may die the death of the righteous, and our last end be like his, and that we may inherit eternal happiness in Thy heavenly kingdom. We offer up our prayers for ourselves, and all mankind. "Let all the people praise Thee, O God! yea, let all the people praise Thee! then shall the earth yield her increase, and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing!" *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## IV.

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER.

BLESSED LORD, who hearest our prayer, it is meet and right that to Thee all flesh should come. We bow the knee to Thee with humility and reverence; and we thank Thee for the opportunity Thou hast given us this day, to assemble ourselves in the courts of Thy house, to hear Thy holy word, and join in the public worship of our God. O may we attend to the things which belong to our salvation, while time is spared to us; for the end of all things is at hand, and our short uncertain life the only season of preparation for eternity. O Lord, we are admonished by the silence of this present hour, to be prepared for that night, when the noise of this busy world shall be heard no more, when the sleep of death shall overtake us, and our bodies return to the dust of the earth. O may we be prepared to rise in joyful hope of a blessed eternity. Every moment ought we to weigh that question which our Lord asked, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" What should we gain, O Lord, by labouring only for the meat which perisheth? We could but possess uncertain treasures, and short-lived gratifications; our souls would still be wretched: created for eternity, what would this world be to us without our God? O let us not, therefore, be disquieted in vain, and labour, as too

often

often we do, for that which satisfieth not. Grant, O Lord, that we may be in the number of those who hear the word of God, and keep it. Bless us with a capacity to remember the duties we are taught; and open our understandings, that we may understand the Scriptures to the salvation of our souls. May we retire to our rest meditating on the blessed truths we have heard or read this day; and may Thy Holy Gospel speak peace to our hearts, and lead us seriously to consider if our conscience is clear of wilful offence. Suffer us not to close our eyes in false security, that we may repent truly of our past sins, firmly purposing, that whether we live, we may live to the Lord, or whether we die, we may die to the Lord, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## V.

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord God of our fathers, again we present ourselves to Thee, on the return of another Sabbath night, and we implore the assistance of Thy heavenly grace, while we look back to consider how we have spent this Thy day of holy rest. O Lord, our God, have we profited toward the salvation of our souls in the fearful day of judgment? Enable us to examine ourselves by the rules of the Gospel of peace. Enable us to follow the doctrine of our blessed Lord, and conform ourselves to the faith of his disciples; which, by the miraculous gift of the Holy Ghost, they were enabled to expound to all nations, in all the languages in which they were born; so that all people, living in the world, who were not eye-witnesses of our Lord's sacred life and death, were convinced that His Apostles declared unerringly the truth; that truth which was foretold by the mouth of His Holy Prophets, since the world began, and was accomplished in Christ Jesus. Give us grace, O Lord God, to believe in Thee, the Father Almighty, and in Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who sitteth at Thy right-hand to be the Judge of quick and dead. Let our prayers and thanksgivings, offered up this day, be acceptable in Thy sight; and fulfil now, O Lord, the petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge

ledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Mercifully assist our prayers, that we make before Thee in all our troubles and adversities whenever they oppress us; graciously look upon our afflictions, and help us, O Lord, and deliver us for Thy name's sake. O Lord, let Thy mercy be shown upon us, according as we do put our trust in Thee. Grant, O blessed Jesus, that Thy holy laws may be more deeply engraven on our hearts, and every truth we have learnt this day be faithfully kept in mind, as a powerful motive to obedience to the end of our days. We thank Thee, O God, for all the means of Thy grace, and the hope of beholding Thy glory: O let Thy unwearied goodness extend itself to an immortal life of bliss, through the merits of our blessed Redeemer. May our lives from this time forth, become, day by day, more suitable to the eternal abode and employment of Thy heavenly host. Glory be to Thee, O God; all the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting; hear us in the words of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

## VI.

## SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER.

O Lord, our God, most high and mighty, wise and holy, just and good, Thou art, and wast, and ever shall continue, unspeakably blessed, and glorious above all that we are able to express or conceive. Thou dost not need the services of angels, or men, for the heavens are the work of Thy hands, and men cannot be profitable to God. But, in kindness and love to our souls, Thou art pleased to lay Thy commands upon us, to wait on Thee with prayer and praises, which is the blissful employment of the heavenly host. Thou humblest Thyself to behold the things which are in heaven: how wonderful is Thy condescension to behold us sinful dust and ashes, created by Thy word. What are we, that Thou shouldst pity our sinful, depraved hearts, and redeem us from the wrath to come, by the death and sufferings of the Holy Jesus? O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, we stand in continual need of Thy mercy and forgiveness, Thy grace and guidance, Thy blessing and assistance. These things it is our interest to seek at all times, and particularly on this day set apart for the more immediate care of our souls, and when, by Thy commandment, the concerns of this life are so ordered and governed, that all are enabled to attend to the things which belong to their salvation. To

this end be Thou pleased to enlighten our minds by Thy sacred Scriptures, and by the preaching of Thy faithful Ministers. Reform our depraved wills, that we may understand what the will of our Lord is, and not omit any opportunity of improving in Christian knowledge. The wisdom of this world often endangers the salvation of our souls; but the wisdom which is from above, creates in us true religion, and an earnest desire to do Thy will on earth, so as to prepare us for those mansions of happiness and peace, where all tears shall be wiped from our eyes. O Lord God, what are the trials and afflictions of this short life, to the glory that shall be revealed to us in heaven; and how poor and insipid all earthly joys, which can endure but for a season, even if we are blessed with every comfort our weak minds can ask. O Lord, fix our hearts on Thy eternal heaven of heavens, where, through the merits and mercies of our Redeemer, we may hope to join Thy heavenly host to all eternity. *Amen.*

*Our Father, &c. &c.*

THE END.

R. GILBERT, PRINTER, ST. JOHN'S SQUARE, LONDON.

# HISTORIC YORKSHIRE FAMILIES.

## CXIV.—The Wilberforces.

### PART I.

Wilberfoss, whence this family took their name, and where they were seated for several centuries, is a village situated about midway between York and Pocklington, on the skirts of the ancient forest of Galtres, which, when it existed, was haunted by herds of wild boars, from which circumstance the village obtained the name of Wild-Boar-Foss, afterwards abbreviated into Wilberfoss. In 1153 a Benedictine Nunnery was founded in the precincts by Hodea or Alan de Catton, which underwent the fate of all monastic institutions under the ruthless hands of the eighth Henry, and of which not a vestige now remains.

The Lordship of Wilberfoss was held soon after the Conquest by the de Kymes, feudal Barons of Kyme, a notable Lincolnshire family, and founders of the Priories of Kyme and Ellingtoe, in that county. Simon de Kyme was excommunicated by the Pope, for taking up arms, with his brother Barons, against King John, and his estates were confiscated and granted to Geoffrey Nevill, but restored to his son Philip. His grandson, Philip, was a distinguished warrior, and was summoned to Parliament as a Baron by writ in 1295, and died in 1322, having married a daughter of Hugh Bigot, and leaving issue a son, and it would appear two daughters. His son William succeeded as second Baron, but died issueless in 1338, when the barony fell in abeyance between his sisters.

When Philip, the first Baron, went to the Scottish wars of Edward I., his standard was joined by one Igerus, of Eggleston, in the county of Durham, a member of an arms-bearing family, who had an eagle for their crest. He gained the favour and friendship of his leader, and subsequently married his daughter Margaret, his other daughter, Lucia, having married Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus. On the death of William, second Baron, the Kyme estates appear to have passed to Lucia, and the Wilberfoss to Margaret, his sister; and genealogists say that the barony is in abeyance amongst the descendants of Gilbert and Lucia, Earl and Countess of Angus, which seems to be an error, as Margaret would be a co-heiress with her sister, and the abeyance of the barony will be between the representatives of Lucia, the Umfrevilles, and of Margaret—the Wilberforces—her descendants.

Igerus, or one his immediate descendants, assumed the name of de Wilberfoss, and settled there, where their posterity remained as Lords of the Manor until the middle of the eighteenth century.

To him succeeded, from father to son, Henry, William, Symon, and Robert de Wilberfoss, of whom nothing much is known excepting their names.

Robert, the last mentioned, was the father of a numerous family, the names of seven sons being recorded—Gilbert, Peter, Roger, William, Hugh, Igerus, and Lawrence—besides, no doubt, some daughters.

From Lawrence descended in regular succession—John Igerus, John, John, John, Robert, John, William, and Christopher, who married Ann, daughter of Robert Brown, of Nethersdale.

William, son of Christopher, was twice married, first, to Margaret, daughter of George Ormrod, of Keaby, by whom he had issue—

Roger.
Thomas of Wigton.
Christopher.
Agnes, who married, first, Thos. Burden; secondly, Henry Pierson.
Elizabeth, who married ——

His second wife was Jane ——, who was the mother of Edward, and Thomas of Beverley, q. v. *infra*.

Roger, his eldest son, who was living in 1551, married Margaret, daughter of Andrew Wright, of Bishop Wilton, and had issue—

Edward, *æt.* 12 in 1584.
Robert, living in 1612, who married Anne, daughter of Thomas Barkary, of Stockton, and had issue Roger, *æt.* 15 in 1612.
Thomas and John.
Isabel and Agnes.

William, whose identity is not apparent, married Jane Shepherd, and had issue—

William, his heir.
Isabel, who married Geo. Pierson, of Brigham.
Rebecca, who married W. Crosk, of North Frodingham.
Elinor, who was living *anl.* in 1612.

William, son, married, first, Ann, daughter of Robert Ferrer, of Beverley, and had issue—

Ralph, *æt.* 21 in 1612.
Thomas and William.

He married, secondly, Margaret, daughter of William Wevier, of Wansworth (Wansford), and had issue a son—George.

* * * * *

Thomas, fourth son of William de Wilberfoss (by his second wife Jane), settled in Beverley towards the end of the sixteenth century, whose son William, also of Beverley and of Brigham, was living in 1612.

William, his son, was a grocer and mercer in Beverley, of which town he was Mayor in 1645, and died in 1665. He adhered to the Parliamentarian cause in the great Civil contest, and in religion held the tenets and principles of the Independents as opposed to Presbyterianism.

William, his son, was also an Alderman of Beverley, and served the office of Mayor in 1674. He held his Aldermanship at the time when King James called in the charters of incorporated cities and towns, and granted new ones containing a proviso that he might, at any time, of his own will, remove any of the members of the Corporations, with the secret object of nominating such members as might be inimical to his project for the restoration of the Popish as the State religion of the country, reconstituting the Pope as the supreme head of the English Church, and thus healing the schism in the universal Catholic Church. A new charter was issued to Beverley in due course, and immediately after the Recorder and seven Aldermen (of whom Wilberfoss was one), were removed from office. After the failure of the King's scheme and his own ingloricous flight from his throne and country, Wilberfoss was reinstated, and in 1689 constituted senior Alderman.

Either he or his father issued a halfpenny token, of which specimens are extant. It has neither device nor date, but is inscribed, "William Wilberfoss, in Beverley." He was a mercer and grocer, having succeeded to his father's business, and died in 1705, leaving issue three sons—

Thomas, Samuel, and Ralph.

Thomas, his eldest son, was a woollen draper in Beverley, an Alderman, and Mayor of the town twice, in 1709 and 1712.

Samuel, second son of William, was also of Beverley, who married Anne, daughter of Robert Davye, of York, and heiress to her brother Robert, of Markington, near Ripon.

William, his son, removed from Beverley to Hull, where, in 1752, he entered into partnership with Abel Smith, of Nottingham, who was connected with him by marriage, and they commenced business as merchants in the Russian and Baltic trade, under the designation of Wilberforces and Smith. In 1759 Smith established in London the great banking house of Smith, Payne, and Smith, and in 1766, in conjunction with Thomas Thompson, the politician of "Grafton Proscription" and of "Swing," founded in Hull the bank of Smith and Thompson. Robert Smith, his son, was raised to the Peerage in 1857 as [illegible] Baron Carrington, whose son, Robert Smith, married Victoria, daughter of Joseph Thomas, in 1820, [illegible] Carrington, in lieu of Smith.

Wilberforce, who, on migrating to Hull, sold his patrimonial estate at Wilberfoss to Sir Wrighte, was chosen an Alderman of Hull in 1721, and filled the office of Mayor in 1732 and 1747, resigning his gown in 1771, after serving fifty years as Alderman. He it was also who altered the orthography of the family name to Wilberforce.

His wife was Sarah, daughter of John Thornton, a Hull and London merchant, a family famous for their philanthropy, piety, and munificent charity, by whom he had issue—

William, who married Hannah, daughter of Robert Thornton, and died s. p. in 1777.

Robert.

Judith, who married Alderman John Bird, and had issue a daughter, Hannah, who married the Rev. Robert Sumner, and was the mother of John Bird Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1848-62, and of Charles Richard Sumner, Bishop of Winchester, 1827.

Robert, his second son, a Hull merchant, who died in 1766, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thos. Bird, of county Oxon, by whom he had issue—

William, heir to his grandfather.

Sarah, who married, first, in 1790, Dr. Clarke, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Hull; secondly, James Stephen, a Master in Chancery, and died in 1816.

William, the philanthropist, son of Robert, was born in 1759, and died in 1833. He married, in 1797, Barbara, daughter of Isaac Spooner, of county Warwick, and had issue—

William, his heir.

The Ven. Robert Isaac, Archdeacon of the East Riding, born 1802.

The Right Rev. Samuel, Bishop of Oxford and Winchester, born 1805.

The Rev. Henry William, Vicar of East Farleigh, born 1807.

Barbara, born 1798, died æt. 1821.

Elizabeth, born 1801, died 1839; married, 1831, the Rev. John James, Vicar of Hawmarsh, near Rotherham.

For further particulars of William Wilberforce and his three younger sons, *vide infra*.

William, eldest son and heir, born 1798, died 1878, was the only one of his sons who did not take holy orders. He was of Markington Grange, near Ripon, and Rue de Chateau Neuf, St. Germain-en-Laye. In 1820 he married Mary Frances, daughter of the Rev. L. Owen, of county Essex, and had issue one surviving son, William.

He was educated at Cambridge, was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple in 1825, but only practised for a few years. He was elected to represent Hull in 1837, but was unseated in consequence of not possessing a legal qualification; was an unsuccessful candidate for Taunton in 1841, and retired from public life in 1854.

William, his son, a barrister-at-law, of Lincoln's Inn, was born in 1821, and married in 1849 Rosa, daughter of W. Jones.

## PART II.

William, only son of Robert Wilberforce, a Hull merchant, by Elizabeth Bird, born in Hull, 1759; died in London 1833, buried in Westminster Abbey; married 1797, Barbara Spooner, and had issue four sons and three daughters. Residences: Hull, Clapham, and Kensington.

Of all the names of saints, divines, and scholars which are so abundant throughout the length and breadth of Yorkshire, and whose memories are cherished with so much respect and esteem, there is not one that is remembered with a greater depth of veneration than that of William Wilberforce, the philanthropist and friend of the negro.

He was educated partially at Clapham, afterwards at a school at Pocklington, whence he proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1781, and M.A. in 1788. He represented his native town in Parliament 1780-84, and his native county 1784-1812, after which the duties attending the representation of a large county becoming too onerous for his advanced age, he stood for the borough of Hull [illegible]

[illegible] guardianship to uncle of Wilberforce, to convey, whose wife, being a disciple of Whitefield, labored hard to effect his conversion to the Calvinistic tenets of that itinerant apostle; and was beginning to make some impression on his youthful mind, when his mother, fearing of that lady's proselytising zeal, became alarmed, fetched him home to Hull, and introduced him into the society of the gay and wealthy merchants' families of the town, where he danced and sang and flirted with all the ardent buoyancy of youth. "But for this," he said afterwards, "and had I remained with my uncle, I should most probably have become a bigoted and despised Methodist."

He succeeded his father in the firm of Wilberforce and Smith, Russian merchants; but possessing a handsome competency, he withdrew from business in 1784, to devote his energies to public pursuits, having with this view entered the House of Commons four years previously as the representative of Hull.

After having completed his education at Cambridge, where he had distinguished himself by his talents, his oratory, and his convivial companionship, he went to London and revelled in all the gaieties of town life, was admitted into the best society, and became associated with all the most fashionable clubs and coteries, afterwards deploring, with great compunction, this "misspent" portion of his life, although he had never indulged in the dissipation and licentiousness then so prevalent.

He became the friend and associate of Pitt, Fox, Wyndham, Sheridan, &c.; travelled in France with Pitt, where they met with some curious adventures, and entered fully into the spirit of the gay social life of Paris, such as it was immediately before the outburst of the great Revolution, when the people rose to overthrow a corrupt social system and a licentious and tyrannical aristocracy.

Although he led this wild and somewhat dissipated life, there were times when the teachings of his aunt would flash across his mind. On one occasion he met at Scarborough with the Rev. Isaac Milner, brother to Joseph Milner, of the Hull Grammar School, and Vicar of Holy Trinity, Hull, himself afterwards Dean of Carlisle, with whom he had a long and serious conversation when walking together on the sands, which deeply impressed him; and shortly after (in 1785) they travelled together to Nice, their conversation on the road turning mainly on religious subjects, which resulted in Mr. Wilberforce becoming thoroughly converted from the error of his ways and eventually developing into one of the most shining lights of the Evangelical section of the Church of England.

In his political career he generally, but not uniformly, supported the measures of Pitt, claiming the character of an independent Member of the House—"the slave of no party." He spoke in favour of Pitt's Reform Bill of 1785, but opposed his policy in regard to the war with France, which, it is said, disturbed the slumbers of the Premier for several nights. He supported Sidmouth's coercive measures, and vindicated what was termed the Peterloo massacre, assisted in framing the Corn Laws of 1815, and was ever ready by speech and vote to support all measures of a religious or philanthropic character.

His chief fame, however, rests on his energetic and persevering assaults on the institution of negro slavery and the slave trade, and in bringing forward yearly, in spite of ridicule, obloquy, and the determined opposition of interested persons, measures for the extinction of the traffic in human flesh and blood until he finally carried his object.

He entered Parliament at the age of twenty-four as one of the Members for Hull, the election costing him £8,000; sat four years for the borough, when he was induced to offer himself as a candidate for the representation of the county of York, and was returned, sitting from 1784 to 1796, with Henry Duncombe as his colleague; from 1796 to 1806 with the Hon. Henry Lascelles; and in 1806-7 with Walter Fawkes. Then followed the great election of 1807, one of the most famous on record, not only for the display of party feeling evinced and the intense interest with which it was watched day by day in Yorkshire and by every politician throughout England, but for the closeness of the contest, and the immense amount of money expended upon it. It was, in fact, a party duel between the houses of Fitzwilliam and Harewood, each of whom spent not

Hon. Henry Lascelles, afterwards second Earl of Harewood, the latter.

In support of the candidature of Wilberforce subscriptions amounting to more than £80,000 came in from all parts of the country, of which sum, however, such was his popularity in the county, that it was not found necessary to spend quite £30,000, the balance being returned to the contributors. The fourth candidate was Walter Fawkes, the late member, who polled only two votes.

The poll was kept open 15 days, the county being in a state of intense excitement through the whole period. There was then but one polling-place for the entire county—the Castle-yard, York, and it was found difficult to convey voters hither from the remote corners of the county, all sorts of vehicles being put in requisition, even hearses being employed for the purpose.

Wilberforce and Lascelles were the Tory and Milton and Fawkes the Whig candidates. On the first day of voting Wilberforce headed the poll; on the second Milton shot ahead of him, but on the third Wilberforce resumed the lead, and maintained it to the end. On casting up the votes the numbers were as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Wilberforce | 11,806 |
| Milton | 11,177 |
| Lascelles | 10,989 |
| Fawkes | 2 |
| Split votes— | |
| Wilberforce and Milton | 1,753 |
| Wilberforce and Lascelles | 8,890 |
| Milton and Lascelles | 314 |
| Milton and Fawkes | 2 |

The number of electors who voted was 23,207.

When a schoolboy at Pocklington Wilberforce commenced his anti-slavery campaign by writing, in a York paper, "A Letter on the Odious Traffic in Human Flesh." Granville Sharp, the grandson of John Sharp, Archbishop of York, had the year before (1772) proved in the Law Courts that slavery was illegal in England, a perusal of the proceedings probably suggesting the letter. In 1780-1 Wilberforce went to Antigua for evidence; two years afterwards Bishop Porteus, a native of York, preached against the slave trade; the next year the Rev. J. Ramsay published an essay on the treatment of slaves; and in 1785 Dr. Pickard gave the slave trade as the subject for a prize essay at Cambridge, the prize being adjudicated to Thomas Clarkson.

Wilberforce, who was now in the House of Commons, entered into an agreement with Sharp and Clarkson to unite their efforts for the abolition of the slave trade, they to collect evidence, and he to bring it before the House. In 1789 he brought forward a motion for the abolition of the trade in negro slaves, in a speech which was highly eulogised by Burke, but the Guinea merchants adroitly shelved it by requesting Parliament to suspend discussion on the motion until they had been put in possession of facts which they would supply. Two years were spent in examining the witnesses, and when Wilberforce got the inquiry transferred to a Select Committee, he had still to labour prodigiously in collecting confuting evidence, and it was not until 1791 that it was brought to an issue, when the traders, chiefly in consequence of an insurrection in St. Domingo, obtained an overwhelming majority.

In 1792, when he attempted to explain the Domingo disturbance, the House would not listen to him, and the following year he sustained three defeats—first, for the immediate abolition of the trade; secondly, for a restriction of the importation of slaves; thirdly, for a prohibition of the use of English capital in the supply of slaves to foreign settlements.

At length, in 1794, he succeeded in carrying his bill through the Commons; but it was rejected by the Lords, and in 1796 and 1796 it was thrown out by the Commons.

In the new Parliament of 1797, he underwent a virtual defeat, by the adoption of Ellis's motion for empowering the Legislature bodies of the colonies to prepare the slaves for abolition. Of this measure, however, he obtained a revocation, but lost his bills of 1798 and 1799, having to rest contented with the passing of the Slave Trade Limitation Bill through the Commons.

The question was thus deferred, in hope of a European Convention to consider the subject, and in 1803, in consequence of the expected invasion of England by Bonaparte. In 1804 the measure was passed by the Commons, but deferred for consideration until the next

on the great Yorkshire elections.

In the course of a few years the example of England was followed, partially or entirely, by France, Spain, Portugal, the United States of America, and other countries, and in 1824 Great Britain made a declaration that she would treat slave-trading as piracy.

In 1823 Wilberforce published his "Appeal" against slavery, and brought forward a motion for its abolition, but did not live to see that cherished object of his heart became the law of the land, he dying July 29th, 1833, and the bill receiving the Royal Assent on the 28th August.

Delicate and distressed in constitution, he was little better than an invalid all through life, yet he performed an almost Herculean labour in rescuing an oppressed portion of the human race from a condition little, if any, better than that of the mill-horse or the yoked ox. By his eloquence he attained high rank as a senator; by his benevolence and philanthropy and his amiability of temperament he was cherished in the social circle, and by his devout piety he gained the highest esteem in the religious world.

Stephen, in his "Ecclesiastical Biography," says—"By paths till then untrodden, he reached a social and political eminence never before attained by any man unaided by party or the sword." And Boswell, who heard him speak in the Castle-yard, York, in 1784, against the Coalition Ministry and the India Bill, says—"I saw what seemed a mere shrimp mount the table, but as I listened he grew and grew until the shrimp became a whale."

He was author of—

"A Practical View of the Prevailing Religious System of Professed Christians in the Higher and Middle Classes in this Country, contrasted with Real Christianity. 1797." 15th edition, 1818, and frequently reprinted since. In America 30 editions have been exhausted, and it has been translated into most of the principal languages of Europe. It was replied to by the Rev. Gilbert Wakefield, Rev. Thos. Belsham, Dr. Cogan, and others.

"A Letter on the Abolition of the Slave Trade, addressed to the Freeholders, &c., of Yorkshire. 1807."

"An Appeal to the Inhabitants of the British Empire in behalf of the Negro Slaves of the West Indies. 1823."

"A Letter to the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of Yorkshire, occasioned by the late Election for that County. 1807. In Vindication of a Charge of having Coalesced with Lascelles."

"Family Prayers. Edited by his son, Robert Isaac. 1834."

His life has been frequently written.

"The Life and Correspondence of W. W. By his sons, Robert Isaac and Samuel. 5 vols. 1838. Portraits at the ages of 29, 59, and 73."

The Correspondence of W. W. Edited by his sons. 2 vols. 1840."

"Epitome of the Life of W. W. By Samuel, Bishop of Oxford. 1868."

"Life and Correspondence, &c., abridged. Christian Family Library. 1843."

William W.: his Friends and Time. By J. C. Colquhoun."

"Memoirs of W. W. By the Rev. Thos. Price. 1834. Prefixed to an edition of the 'Practical View.'"

"William Wilberforce. By Dr. Stoughton. 1881. In the 'Men Worth Remembering' series."

"Recollections of W. W. By John S. Harford (a Bristol Banker)."

"Strictures on the Life of W. W. By Thomas Clarkson. 1838."

The monuments erected to his memory are—

A seated statue in Westminster Abbey, by Joseph, 1833. Engraved in the *Art Journal*, June, 1853.

A Doric pillar and statue, Hull, 1835.

An asylum for the blind, York, 1834.

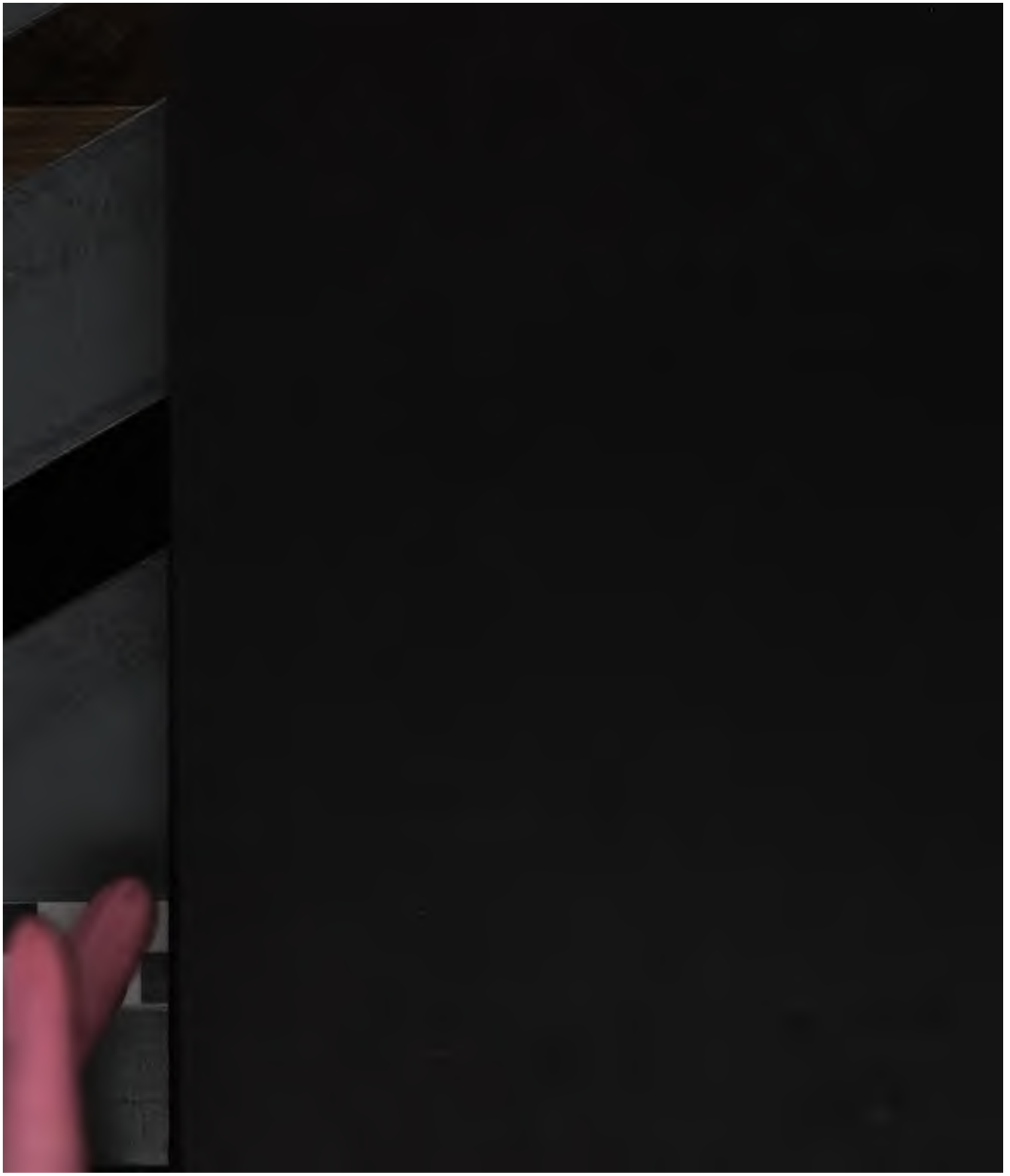
Portraits of him are numerous, by the following artists:—

Hoppner. Engraved by Hodges, 1791.

Russell. Engraved by Heath, 1807. Exhibited at Leeds, 1868; lent by the Corporation of Leeds.

Edridge. Engraved by Vendramini.

Slater. Engraved by Say, 1820.

Sir T. Lawrence. Engraved by Finden, 1829, unfinished.

Richmond, 1832. Formerly in possession of Sir Bott. Inglis, now in the National Portrait Gallery. Was exhibited at South Kensington. The monument in Westminster Abbey is a copy of this portrait.